Saturday, March 29, 2008 ** Vol. 22 / No. 110
www.inquirer.net

A NATIONAL Food Authority worker carries a sack of rice inside a warehouse in Manila. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap assures the public that Vietnam will deliver the 750,000 MT by June or July to boost NFA's rice stockpile up to 45-60 days from the mandated 15-30 days. Yap also seeks to dispel notions of a rice shortage crisis. AFP

Land conversion ban eyed

CPP orders NPA to raise guerrilla fronts to 173

By Dello T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MARKING THE FOUNDING anniversary of its rebel army, the Communist Party of the Philippines ordered its forces to expand their guerrilla fronts to cover 173 congressional districts in the country, in response to the military's declared goal of wiping out the rebels by 2010.

In a statement to commemorate today's 39th anniversary of the New People's Army, the CPP said the Arroyo administration was "deepening" by boasting it could defeat the NPA.

The rebels' Central Committee also said that aside from the roadside that had hit President Macapagal-Arroyo's family and

CPP ORDERS A11

Ninoy killers now Cory's prayer warriors

By Julie M. Aurelio

HER HUSBAND'S CONVICTED murderers are now among the prayer warriors for the ailing "grandmommy in yellow."

Eleven soldiers convicted for shooting Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. yesterday offered Mass for ex-President Corazon Aquino, days after her family announced she had colon cancer.

The Mass, held at the New Bilibid Prisons, was originally meant for former Sgt. Hilario Lesaga, who led a stroke and

NINOY A10

WHAT SHORTAGE? People line up to buy NFA's subsidized rice on Friday at its central office warehouse along Visayas Avenue. Only 3 kilos are allowed each person. Each kilo costs P18.85. JOAN BONDOC

Sumilao land row over: Farmers, San Miguel Corp. reach agreement

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN 98 gaunon farmers and San Miguel Corp. over a 144-hectare property in Sumilao, Bukidnon, has been settled and the contending parties will seal the agreement after lunch today, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman confirmed yesterday.

The agreement covers 30 hectares in the 144-ha property owned by SMC subsidiary San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) and 94 ha outside the disputed area "but still within Sumilao," Pangandaman told the Inquirer on the phone.

Another Cabinet official confirmed that such an agreement had been reached by SMC and the farmers.

"This is a win-win solution. This is the best solution under the circumstances," said the official who was privy to the negotiations but was not authorized to speak on the record.

The contending parties are to meet at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City at 1 p.m. today for the signing of the agreement before they proceed to Malacañang for a 2:30 p.m. meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Pangandaman said.

SUMILAO A11

WHAT, ME WORRY? DA Secretary Yap at his presser on Friday says his father-in-law not in the rice business.

Yap denies kin in rice trade; no Pimentel apology

By Amy R. Remo and Allison W. Lopez

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Arthur Yap yesterday denied that his father-in-law was involved in the rice trade, as Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. appeared to suggest.

Yap said at a news briefing

YAP DENIES A9

Rice tariffs may be cut to end NFA monopoly

By Christine O. Avendaño and Amy R. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO wants a moratorium on the land use conversion of agricultural land, particularly rice land, in view of the worldwide tight rice supply that has been jacking up the local prices of the grain.

According to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the matter was discussed in this week's Cabinet meeting. He said the Cabinet had long been discussing the many cases of land use conversion involving agricultural land, and tackled the matter again last Tuesday when it met with the President regarding measures to address the rice supply problem.

This time, Gonzalez said, some Cabinet members including himself suggested to Mrs. Arroyo a moratorium on land use conversion of rice farms, many of which had been turned into residential areas and even golf courses.

LAND A8

₱228M: Biggest lotto pot in RP history

By Beverly T. Nachiridad

THE JACKPOT PRIZE FOR THE 6/48 SuperLotto has soared to ₱228 million, the biggest in the history of the country's online lottery game, after bettors failed to pick the winning six-number combination in Thursday's draw.

The prize money could increase by P10 million to P12 million by Sunday, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) spokesperson Larry Cedro told the Inquirer yesterday.

Sixteen SuperLotto draws since January have failed to produce a winner but a few were able to pick five of the six numbers in the winning combinations, according to the PCSO.

Sales on Thursday alone for the 10th draw totaled 8,813,820 tickets.

None of those who bought those eight-million-plus tickets picked the winning combination 7-21-24-27-42-43.

Cedro said 329 lotto bettors each won ₱56,000 for picking five of the six winning numbers.

Another 8,316 lucky bettors pocketed ₱1,800 each for getting four of the six numbers. More than 150,000 other bettors each won ₱300 by hitting three numbers.

The biggest jackpot ever won in the 6/49 lotto was ₱202 million, which six individuals won on Oct. 17, 2002.

P228M A6

Thai exec dared: Prove degree real

BANGKOK—BLOGGERS IN Thailand remain unconvinced of the authenticity of an academic degree that a Thai Cabinet minister supposedly obtained from a little-known college in the Philippines.

Trying to burn a Thai newspaper report that he only finished secondary school, Sotha Chaisaeng, the Thai minister of social development and human security, claimed to have a bachelor's degree in commerce from the Republican College in Quezon City.

Besides the Thai constitu-

THAI EXEC A10

Are you a chimpanzee or a bonobo?

PARIS—IT'S LATE AT NIGHT. YOU are in a town that you don't know very well and all the restaurants are closing.

You are famished, and spot a stall that will sell you a small snack.

Should you take the snack or venture further, hoping to find a place that will serve you a hearty meal but knowing that you may el-

ARE YOU A2

Stay in the dark to light up future; observe 'Earth Hour' 8-9 tonight

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Jeannette I. Andrade and Margaux C. Ortiz

YOU'RE SIPPING A FRAPPUccino, shopping in the mall or driving along Roxas Boulevard. Suddenly, the lights go out—for a full hour.

Don't fret. It only means one thing: "Earth Hour" has struck.

More than a few establishments will deserted into darkness beginning 8 p.m. today to mark their participation in the global movement to address climate change.

According to environmental group, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines, the event will see a large portion of well-lit and bustling districts in Metro Manila go about their usual business but with the lights shut off.

More than 30 other cities

STAY A9

Second
FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

SC may still reverse itself

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **NO TAKERS** for Comelec legal post /A4
- **SC TO RELEASE** list of new lawyers today /A6
- **NATIONALIST** People's Coalition may field Loren-Chiz duo /A10

But Gonzalez says Senate plea is futile

By Jerome Aning and Gil Cabacungan

THE SUPREME COURT COULD STILL REVERSE ITS RULING that executive privilege holds when it handed down a judgment on a petition filed by Commission on Higher Education chair Romulo Neri, according to the tribunal's spokesperson.

Spokesperson Ana Melba Marquez said the Senate might still file a motion for reconsideration and if senators were able to provide new or better arguments, the justices might be persuaded to change their opinion on the case.

"We can say that there may still be a reversal, considering that the voting was 8-6, and two of the nine justices only concurred in the result. So we can say there's a big hope that the ruling will be different when the motion for reconsideration is filed," Marquez told reporters.

In the history of the Supreme Court, however, no basic decisions like the one given on the first case are rarely reversed by the same set of justices.

While holding out hope of a reversal, Marquez in the same breath expressed dismay that the justices yielded to political pressure in coming out with the decision than elaborating hailed as a victory.

Seeming to echo Marquez, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that any motion for reconsideration would be useless and futile.

"I cannot read the minds of the justices but I think a motion for reconsideration may be of not much value. This is a decision of the entire court en banc. This is not the decision of a division," Gonzalez told reporters also yesterday.

But the Senate appears set to ask the Supreme Court to change its decision upholding the right of Neri to invoke executive privilege when he appeared before a Senate investigation.

"The issue here is not whether we will summon Neri or not," Senate President Manuel Villar said. "What is important here is the position of the Senate as an institution. We will not allow the Senate to be treated this way because our power is rooted in the Constitution."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the joint panel investigating possible corruption in the executive branch that summoned Neri to testify, said that senators had come out from the consultation with a stronger determination to file a motion for reconsideration.

Sen. Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, co-chair of the joint committee, did not share his peers' optimism that the justices would reverse their decision.

"The bill is more of a pro-forma than a real expectation of a change of mind," he said.

7.3% growth is fiction, says ex-Neda chief

By Michelle V. Reyes

A FORMER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANning secretary has claimed that the 7.3-percent economic growth reported last year, the highest in three decades, is grossly overstated.

Felipe Medalla, who headed the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) during the Fidel Ramos administration, said the 2007 gross domestic product (GDP) growth as reported by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) was inconsistent with other economic indicators.

He estimated actual growth rate last year as only about 5.5 percent.

"That recent economic growth is [the] highest in three decades is in all likelihood a statistical fiction," Medalla said a press briefing yesterday at the launch of the 2008 Economic and Social Survey of Ateneo de Manila.

The survey, which tackled major economic and social issues confronting countries in the region, was released by the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Asked whether he considers the NSCB lying about figures on the country's economic performance, Medalla said, "NSCB is not a liar but is just underfunded."

"The President [Macapagal-Arroyo] is the liar and not the NSCB," he said.

According to Medalla, the National Income Accounts (NIA), which details the country's GDP growth for a given period, was not reliable because of the measures are lacking to conduct accurate surveys on the performance of all sectors of the economy.

GMA meets 7 Mindanao Catholic bishops

By Michael Lim Ubac, in Manila and Franklin Caligoit, Inquirer Mindanao

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO met behind closed doors with at least seven Mindanao-based Catholic bishops in Bishop City in Tarlac as part of efforts to get the blessing of the clergy for her continued hold on power until 2010.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, however, told reporters in Malacañang that there was nothing peculiar about the President meeting with the bishops from Mindanao held at the Ateneo de Davao University.

He said that Ms Arroyo had previously visited bishops celebrating their birthday.

"It's probable that there is a special occasion where her attendance is considered," said Bunye.

A statement issued by the Palace yesterday confirmed the meeting and even quoted the Mindanao bishops as telling Ms Arroyo that "Church and State working together [is] good for the people."

Among those present were Bishops Juan de Dios Pueblos of Butuan, Antonio Cabahug of Antipas, Nevio Zabbia of Tandag, Honesto Pacana of Malaybalay, Auxiliary Bishop Zenaida Juvinal Bacani

Spratlys airstrip upgrade stalled

By Nikko Dizon

CADUNGOG

THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT is determined to finally fix the airstrip it had built on Pag-asa Island in the Spratlys, but the project has been hampered by problems with the private contractor, according to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) commanding general.

"Unfortunately, the contractor landed on Pag-asa even initially performing as contracted so we are now back again to zero and considering another option," Lt. Gen. Dioniso Cadungog told reporters yesterday.

The Spratlys, believed to be rich in oil, gas and fish stocks, consist of about 100 barren islets, reefs and atolls dotting the world's busiest shipping lanes in the South China Sea. Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei each claim all or part of the low-lying islands.

Cadungog said the work should not be interpreted by Filipino navigators in 1995 of Philippine-claimed Mischief Reef, where Beijing built concrete structures that it said were shelters for fishermen.

That incident raised tensions in the region and was protested by the Philippines.

"It was part of leveraging an island and building a fortress," Cadungog told reporters. "That island (Pag-asa) is even from the beginning."

Cadungog said the project should have been started last month but the contractor had asked for almost a 300-percent increase in the budget and eventually pulled out.

"[They] claimed that they cannot do it unless we increased the amount to P300 million, something. That's unfair to us," Cadungog said.

Cadungog said the company had already signed the contract for the project, estimated to cost P71 million.

He declined to identify the contractor because the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has not yet filed charges. But the AFP would take "drastic action against the contractor," Cadungog said.

"The engineers were now reviewing the penalties that 'must be turned out to the contractor' based on the contract, he added.

As a fallback, Cadungog said, the AFP would say the Philippine Navy to haul the materials to Pag-asa next month, when seas were calmer.

Defense chief Gilbert Teodoro also said yesterday there was nothing wrong with improving existing facilities on Pag-asa.

Cadungog said the military intended to lengthen the airstrip on the island and resurface eroded portions for the safety of PAF C-130s.

With a report from AP

PAF chopper deal scrapped; supplier banned

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED the local partner of a US-based helicopter maker from bidding for state contracts for one year for attempting to confound the government in a 2007 tender, a defense official said yesterday.

The defense department's bids and award committee has also recommended filing a criminal complaint against Asian Aerospace Corporation for violating procurement laws, according to documents seen by Reuters.

In September 2005, Asian Aerospace Corp, a local partner of MD Helicopters, uses a government contract to sell six MD530F eight-seatable attack helicopters for P1.2 billion ($26.6 million).

But a review of the bidding process showed that MD530F did not meet the technical specifications required by the Philippine Air Force, the documents said.

The price also appeared to be inflated since Asian Aerospace had previously offered 12 of the same helicopters for exactly the same price, according to the documents.

On Jan 23, the defense department halted the award of the helicopter supply contract after an inquiry showed irregularities in the tender procedures.

Several defense and military officials who participated in the bidding process are facing an inquiry.

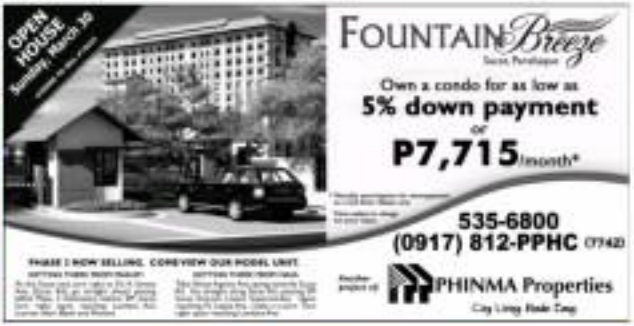
A defense official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, confirmed Asian Aerospace had been blocked for one year from participating in bidding for government contracts.

"The biggest issue here is they are not being able to bid for the P9.2 billion helicopter contract," the official said.

The company said it had not received any notice of the blacklisting.

"There's no basis for any suspension," Bruce Rodriguez, president of Asian Aerospace, told Reuters, adding his company has appealed against the decision by the government to scrap the helicopter contract.

"We never (for once) have called the government's attention on some flaws in the contract. Why would the government penalize us?" Reuters



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, March 29, 2008
Saturday in the Octave of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 4:13-21
Gospel: Mk 16:9-15

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported to the companions of Jesus, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. These went and told the rest, but could not believe them. Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world; and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary

St. Mark recounts briefly the several appearances of the Risen Lord. Though he omits many of the colorful details recorded by the other evangelists, the message is no less clear. The Risen Lord commands His apostles to take the message of His resurrection to the ends of the earth. All might believe.

The potency of the command would be demonstrated by the millions of Christians throughout history who have considered their lives to hold no significance, unless even to the point of winning the reward of martyrdom. May we never be ashamed of our Easter faith.

Manila Cathedral-Basilica Foundation, Inc., Bishop cor. M. Cuenco Sts., Intramuros, Manila, Philippines. Tel. No. (632) 527-3746 to 48; Fax No. (632) 527-3745; E-mail: cathedral@pldtdsl.net; Website: http://www.manilacathedral.com; Publications: http://manilacathedral.org; Christian Responsibility in the Philippine Context, ISSN 1656-9938. Secretary, Editorial Board, 2007: Atty. Linda Ang-See, Quezon City. E-mail: lapecondet@yahoo.com; Telephone: 911-0741; E-mail: lapecondet@gmail.com

No takers for Comelec legal post

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AFTER TWO PEOPLE WHO OCCUPIED THE post were killed, nobody at the Commission on Elections now wants to head its law department.

"No one would like to take over ... No one has expressed interest to take over [the law department]," Comelec chairman Jose Melo told a press briefing.

Monday's killing of the Comelec law department officer in charge Nyssa Ardala has apparently rattled officials of the agency that nobody wants to take over the vacant post.

Melo would not give a reason for the apparent chill among officials towards the assumption of the law department but hinted that it may have something to do with the mounting perception of danger that comes with the post.

Ardala was killed by one of two motorcycle-riding gunmen on Monday while he was entering a busy store near the agency's head office in Intramuros, Manila. His predecessor, lawyer Alioden Dining, suffered a similar fate last year.

Even senior officials in the law department are reluctant to be appointed in the post.

Atador De Mesa, who is supposedly Ardala's co-head in the department and the next senior, would not name immediately after the killing.

A source, who requested anonymity, told the Inquirer that several minutes after Monday's shooting she saw the lawyer pale and hurriedly leaving the building. "She (De Mesa) has not reported for work since. She has received death threats long before Ardala received them," the source said.

Staff of the law department said De Mesa has not gone to the office since Tuesday and had asked Commissioner Romeo Brawner for a leave of absence although its duration is not known.

SC to release list of new lawyers today

THE RESULTS OF THE 2007 Bar Examinations will be released sometime after lunch today, according to the Supreme Court.

Chief of the Supreme Court's public information office made this announcement yesterday after emerging from a meeting with Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, chair of the 2007 committee on bar examinations.

"Prior to the release, we really want to check and double check the matching of the examinees' number with the corresponding names of examinees," he said.

The detailing process started after the Supreme Court en banc session that took place earlier in the morning, wherein the justices gave the Office of the Bar Confidant time to finish the process.

"We have to check well the numbers and matched them with the names so that there would be no errors. The OBC said the decoding will take longer than expected, that is why they have decided to postpone it for tomorrow, but they are now starting to decode," he explained.

Marquez pointed out that every year, the Court receives requests for re-checking, especially from those who failed to pass the examinations.

"But the Court does not usually entertains or allow such requests unless there are strong arguments for re-checking," he said.

Marquez said that they expect the decoding to be finished by lunchtime today. He said the list of names will be displayed on LED projectors in front of the high court. Jerome Aning

24 days to go before EARTH DAY!

...That the Philippines has at least 52,177 species of plants, animals and other life forms, many of which are found only in the country?

P228M: Biggest lotto pot in RP history

From page A1

The PCSO also benefited from the increase in the price [illegible] it reaped P374,276,400 in sales last Thursday alone.

Online said tickets sales had not declined despite the PCSO's decision last December to raise the price of a 6/49 ticket to P20 from P30.

"There is still an increase in the number of bettors despite the increase in the ticket price. They still continue to patronize the 6/49 lotto," he said.

Winning odds in US: 1 in 175.7 million

TWO WINNERS SPLIT THE $390-MIL. Mega Millions jackpot on March 6, 2007, said to be the largest lottery jackpot in US and world history.

That is roughly P16.3 billion.

The odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are 1 in 175.7 million.

Truck driver Ed Nabors purchased his winning ticket in Georgia, while the couple Elaine and Harold Mosmer of Cape May County, New Jersey claimed the other half of the jackpot.

Mega Millions jackpot winners are either paid over 26 years or in a single lump sum. Payout rules vary from state to state. The Mosmers and Nabors each received an amount of roughly $116 million, before taxes.

The winning numbers were 14-22-39-39-42, plus the Mega Ball, 20.

How Mega Millions is played

Mega Millions is a multi-state lottery played in California, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

In playing Mega Millions, players pick six numbers from two separate pools of numbers: five different numbers from 1 to 56, and one number from 1 to 46.

Matching all six winning numbers in a draw wins the jackpot.

Other prizes in Mega Millions range from $2 to $250,000. Each ticket costs $1. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

FAMILIAR SIGHT AT LOTTO OUTLETS Lines form on the left and the right for would-be millionaires. AUDITOR DAO

EUROPEAN SOFAS

Are you a chimpanzee or a bonobo?

From page A1

HAM'S CLOSEST KIN Chimpanzee and the bonobo. Like humans, the latter is the more amiable while the former is a big risk-taker, according to a behavioral research paper published by Britain's Royal Society.

so find nothing?

Most of us would go for the safe option—we prefer to have at least a little to eat rather than take the risk of going hungry if the quest for a bigger reward goes awry.

Closest relatives

Scientists have carried out an innovative experiment among our closest relatives, chimpanzees and bonobos, in an attempt to explain why this is so.

In a paper appearing on Wednesday in Biology Letters, published by Britain's Royal Society, UK and German animal behaviorists recruited five chimps and five bonobos at a primate research center in Leipzig Zoo, eastern Germany.

The apes had to choose between two upside-down bowls.

Safe bowl or risky bowl?

One was the "safe" bowl, which always covered four grape halves.

The other was the "risky" bowl, which covered between one piece and as many as seven pieces of grape halves.

Chimpanzees turned out to be big risk-takers, being invariably tempted to go for the grand prize even if that also meant frequent disappointment.

Bonobos, like humans, were strongly risk-averse, and preferred to go for the fixed, dependable reward.

Common ancestor

The chimps' love of risk it is keeping with previous findings. Compared with bonobos, chimpanzees are more jealous, waiting longer to get their hands on a delayed treat.

And their risk-taking strategy is also confirmed by the fact that, unlike bonobos, they hunt, kill and eat colobus monkeys. If the hunt comes off, the group gets to feast on protein-rich colobus meat—if not, they all go hungry.

The disinclination is intriguing, because in many respects the two primate species are very similar, having diverged from a common ancestor less than a million years ago, which is evolutionarily to me a recent.

Survival mechanism

They have similar body size and appearance and share much of the same behavior and social hierarchy.

The difference, though, lies in their diet. Both apes feed heavily on fruit, but bonobos also seek less herbaceous vegetation on the ground, which is a more reliable source of sustenance.

In addition, bonobos may also have access to larger fruit patches, facing less competition within a given patch than chimpanzees.

So what makes chimps gamble is a clever survival mechanism—their food resources are less certain, which means they have learned to cope with going for big or bust, say the authors, led by Sarah Heilbronner of Harvard University and Duke University North Carolina.

Same genetic drives

The results show how neurological processes can sculpt decision-making, a trait that also applies to humans, they believe.

"Our [research] did not evolve in the context of modern economies, many of our preferences are likely tailored to providing adaptive foraging and other evolutionary-relevant decisions," they say.

Thus, when you venture into the urban jungle late at night, with your eyes, ears and nose alert to the sight, sound and smell of a double cheeseburger, you are obeying the same genetic drivers as your hunter-gatherer forebears, millions of years ago. AFP

COME & CELEBRATE WITH US!
Feast of Mercy
"A Day of Love, Mercy, Healing and Thanksgiving"
MARCH 30, 2008 – 10am to 6pm
ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY (GYMNASIUM)
Aurora Blvd. cor. Gilmore St., Quezon City
ADMISSION IS FREE!
COVERED LIVE ON
RBN Channel 4
&
Divine Mercy Channel (DMC)

Words of our Lord to St. Faustina:
"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; on that day, the feast of My Mercy, will be open to all divine aid; all to confessions and receive Holy Communion so that they will receive complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. Mankind will not enjoy peace until it turns with confidence to My Mercy".

"Praise now go throughout the Church, the second Sunday of Easter will be called DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY."
(Diary, 299) (Feast II, April 30, 2000)

Talks, Sharing, Testimonies, Healing, Praising and Adoration
THE WHOLE DAY!
Confessions start at 10:30am
Holy Mass:
9am - Bishop Pinpin Ibo Caluscus, D.D.
3pm - Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, D.D.
Special Guest: GINO PADILLA (to sing the 3 o'clock prayer)

Know more about the message and devotion to the Divine Mercy
Watch the DIVINE MERCY CHANNEL (DMC) LIVE FOR FREE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD through Video Streaming (Internet TV).
www.divinemercytvchannel.com
(powered by JumpTV)
DIVINE MERCY CHANNEL
Tel. No. 727-2801 / 410-0363 Manila Fax 726-0170 / 727-1865

*** KEEP THE 3 O'CLOCK HABIT ***

PHILIP MORRIS

COOL CUBE

COUNT THE NUMBER OF PACKS INSIDE THE CUBE AND WIN COOL PRIZES

A. 54 PACKS B. 56 PACKS C. 58 PACKS D. 60 PACKS

To enter the draw, write your name, address, age (as of March 1, 2000), telephone number, signature, and the correct number of Philip Morris packs inside the "Cool Cube" on the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant (Philip Morris Menthol 100's Flipop box, Philip Morris Menthol 100's Soft pack, Philip Morris Menthol King Size 20's, Philip Morris Menthol King Size 10's) and drop in drop boxes or mail to:

PHILIP MORRIS "COOL CUBE" PROMO c/o Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. MCC P.O. Box 2338 Makati City 1299.

Promo open only to adult smokers 18 years old and above. Nationwide promo period is from March 20 to May 19, 2000.

Draw date: June 6, 2000 (at PCN PromoPro Inc. Head office)

START COUNTING!

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

ADB loan conditions blamed for rice crisis

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ADVOCATES OF FOOD sovereignty yesterday blamed the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the looming rice shortages in the country, saying its loan conditions had been pressuring the government to deregulate rice production.

The Asia Pacific Network on Food Sovereignty (APNFS) said the ADB should be held liable for the ongoing food insecurity in the Philippines and other developing countries for financing agricultural projects under disastrous conditions.

These loan conditions, continued to pressure the government to give up its agricultural institutions on rice imports, a measure that protects the farm sector, APNFS convenor Arlo Olpindo said in a press conference.

"We have articulated why we are in a vulnerable situation, and the ADB should not manage to hoodwink for the food crisis we are facing," said Olpindo.

Since its founding in 1966, ADB has financed agricultural projects anchored on poverty reduction, Olpindo said, however, that these projects tended to worsen the farmers' livelihood.

She cited the $175-million funding that the bank extended to the Philippines to finance the Grain Sector Development Program in 2006.

Unrestricted rice importation

In extending the loan, ADB pushed for the privatization of the National Food Authority and called for unrestricted rice importation, Olpindo said.

She said it required the lifting of quantitative restrictions on rice importation, to be replaced with tariffs on imported rice, and canceled the loan when the government failed to meet these conditions.

The government received only $30 million from the loan package representing the first tranche.

"The ADB, in offering loans to help impoverished countries, is [offering] just lip service. It has no intent to solve poverty in our country but to integrate our agriculture to the world market and to facilitate good business for rich capitalist countries," Olpindo said.

Top producer but ...

She pointed out that while the Philippines was among the world's top rice producers, it had remained a net importer of the grains.

She also said the Philippines had been too inefficient up to the early 1980s but eventually lost control of its rice importation when it submitted to the structural adjustment measures of the International Monetary Fund.

"We are calling on the ADB to relent so it could have according to the needs of the country it would like to help," Olpindo said.

GIVEAWAY RICE WITH PRESIDENTIAL INITIALS At the Malimono Cultural Center, Barangay Poblacion in Malimono, Surigao del Norte, the President attends the delivery of social services with a medical and dental mission. The sacks contain her bikes of rice, six cans of sardines, five pouches of noodles. AFP/RUEL PEREZ

Printing We...

PRINT TOWN

Land conversion ban eyed

From page A1

"The President adopted the recommendation, and it was my impression that there was a policy," the justice secretary said.

"She was told on the idea," he said, adding that in the first place, Ms Arroyo knew that "we're an agricultural economy."

Guanzon also said that the way the tax decreased it, Ms Arroyo would instruct the agriculture and agrarian reform departments in this area policy.

Relax tariff rates

The President has also ordered the Department of Finance to draw up measures to relax tariff rates on rice, similar to that of oil, to allow greater private-sector participation in importation, said Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

"Basically, this is a move to open up importation to a greater and broader sector of society rather than keeping it with the National Food Authority (NFA)," Yap said in a briefing.

Previously

Yap denies kin ...

Front page A1

that his father-in-law, Alcuaz Gow, was not and had never been involved in rice retailing, and had not sought an importer's permit or permit from the National Food Authority.

"It's sad for me and my family that a senior statesman like Senator Pimentel can make such an allegation that casts aspersion on the reputation of a law-abiding private citizen like my father-in-law without any evidence to back him up," Yap said.

But in apology is forthcoming from Pimentel.

Speaking at yesterday's Senatorial forum in Manila, Pimentel said his statement on Gow was a "question," and not an "allegation."

"I would like to place everything in correct perspective," the senator said. "My question raised (was) necessary (to), whether or not his father-in-law is involved in the cereal business, was designed to remove any doubt that he is acting within and not outside of interest. It was a legitimate question ... there is nothing to apologize for."

Can't take the heat?

Yap also said in an interview over radio dzMM that Pimentel's mere question had "(not) proof" his reputation. "Senator Pimentel, kahit ano, pa ba ang edad niya, ayaw na niya ng mainit na?"

But Pimentel said that if Yap could not take the heat, "he should get out of the kitchen."

"Why would his reputation be destroyed? It would be if what was said was true," the senator said, adding:

"Somebody informed me that he (Gow) was involved in the cereal business. It's a public issue.

"One of the things I don't want to do is start a torture investigation or anything. In other words, if Jimmy Gow is not involved in any way, directly or indirectly, in the cereal business, then that issue is dead ...

"I wanted Secretary Yap to clean his family of that suspicion ... Good thing he denied it. Let's leave it at that."

Well-endowed

But Pimentel criticized Yap for calling on Filipinos to cut their rice intake, saying he did so because his cause runs "is well-endowed mostly."

"You can tell the rich to do that, but what about the fishermen, the poor? I'm sorry to say he hasn't seem to address the rice problem," the senator said.

He said this was "a serious matter" because it concerned food.

On the reported rice shortage, Pimentel said the government had been employing a "very temporary and superficial solution" by importing the grain when it should be focusing on increasing production.

"It is a correct policy to be import-dependent or productivity-dependent?" he said.

Stay in the dark ...

Front page A1

across the world—including Sydney, Toronto, Chicago and Copenhagen—sings their own 'Utah episode.'

In the Philippines, the WWF and other Earth Hour ambassadors will converge near the fountain of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for a countdown and a short program.

Global event

The global event was first launched in Australia on March 31, 2007, meeting 2.2 million people and 2,400 business establishments in Sydney, including its famous landmarks, the Harbor Bridge and Opera House, to shut off all lights for an hour.

The WWF reported that the collective effort reduced the city's energy consumption by 10.2 percent, which was like taking 48,000 cars off the road for an hour.

The group is encouraging every Filipino household to join the activity tonight by simply switching off their lights an hour.

Ecological sins

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo yesterday urged the faithful to support Earth Hour, reminding them it would be sinful to ignore pressing environmental issues.

Damage to the environment is a sin because it destroys life, according to the prelate during an interview over Catholic-run Radio Veritas.

We may be ruining the future of the young Filipinos ... There may not be anything left for them if we continue to exploit our natural resources," Lagdameo said.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales also made a similar call. He asked the faithful to assess his "ecological sins" and "to reverse the tide of destruction that modern life and human selfishness have wrought on it."

Local governments

Four local governments, namely Pasay, Muntinlupa, Manila and Makati have pledged to turn off the lights in important landmarks and establishments.

All the lampposts, including the embedded "Solar-Spot" lights, along the bayside stretch of Roxas Boulevard from Pasaytapo to Manila will be turned off as well as those in some parts of Malate.

But meeting these two major thoroughfares into zones of total darkness will require more than just a flick of the switch.

Since most of the lampposts installed in the metropolis have light sensors which make them automatically turn on at night, the flagship local governments and Meralco have assigned workers to unscrew the light bulbs for the event, according to Ms Iadis, WWF-Philippines climate and energy projects head.

The resplendent decades-old clock tower in Manila and the historic Luneta park will also plunge in total darkness, said Gregg Yan, WWF-Philippines information and communication officer.

In Makati City, all streetlights along Ayala, Ayala and JP Rizal will be switched off. Church bells will ring and stores of five malls will go off to signal the start of Earth Hour.

SM malls, too

For an hour tonight, lights in all Ayala-owned malls and Ayala-maintained buildings will go dense, too.

Mike Arcilla, SM Vice President for Operations.

"This is the first time we are going to do this. We never turn off the SM logo because this always been a sign of the role of the malls in the communities we are part of," she told the forum.

2.5M shoppers per day

"Through Earth Hour, we are able to give back to the public by being a venue for important global messages," said Arcilla.

Mercie said the activity would create numerous energy savings and shoppers. Mall shoppers number around 2.5 million per day. During weekends, especially Saturday nights, they exceed the 3 million mark."

Among the companies participating in the event are: Philips Lighting Systems, Coca-Cola, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, ChowKing, BDBC, Citytoys, Intel, Leo Burnett, Manila Peninsula and Shangri-La Hotels.

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!
Call: 3432810, 3414751, 09177648874

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
Pharmacy Consultants

MAPÚA MALAYAN COLLEGES MAPÚA
College of San Juan
723-0033 to 39

People's Choice

SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999

SPEECHPOWER
Trusted by global firms.
Free Sample Lessons
You want the best training in English? Come. Inquire. Be the quality. Join our free Speech! lessons and see how we can help you.
TODAY - SP- Cuban
SP-Granville
SP- Espeña
March 30 - Sun - SP - Biñan
Time: 10am - Live Interactive
2pm - 5pm High School
6pm - 9pm College & Career
*Course advising follows.
Summer 2008 classes begin on April 1,3 & 5, 2008
Cubao 7727096 8933856
Alabang 7257282 8849933
Biñan 0949424

because you deserve the best
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 2
Phase III
₱ 915,480 cash ₱ 8,700 mo.
TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
₱2.83M cash ₱26,957 mo.
CITYLAND
812-2222 567-3333
687-3333 242-1212
www.cityland.net

DESIGNED TO PERFORM
at the
HIGHEST LEVEL.
IS IT YOU?
www.ssci.com.ph
SEIKO
THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SHOWROOMS & SERVICE CENTERS:
MAKATI - Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel (632) 845-0202 MANILA - SM MEGA MALL, 3rd Fl. Edsa cor. Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City Tel (632) 531-8819 QUEZON CITY - Ali Mall, 2nd Fl., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City Tel (632) 911-1988 CEBU - Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City Tel (032) 232-0702
ALBA
Available at any SEIKO/ALBA Service Center and Authorized Dealers nationwide

SOA-B
SOA-F
PILOT
SUPER COLOR MARKER
FINE
Available in: black, red, blue brown, violet, green, orange, yellow
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
5710 Pandoc St., Bangkal, Makati
P.O. BOX 1811 m.c. 1200 tel: 896-1811 fax: 897-1871
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

Abandoned 'Japinos' fly to Japan

THREE CHILDREN ABANDONED BY their Japanese fathers left Friday for Japan to whom a nonprofit group said is the first time where their Filipino mothers are being allowed to go along to live and work there.

The three—between the ages of 6 and 12—left with their mothers for Nagoya—and probably more their future.

An estimated 50,000 Japanese-Filipino children—known as "Japinos"—live here, often abandoned or orphaned by their fathers after liaisons with Filipina women, who in most cases worked as entertainers in Japan.

Mizuchi, a former entertainer separated from her Japanese husband, said her main business to extend Cebu does not provide enough for such education. In Japan, she hopes he can get an education and learn Japanese culture.

Oka said some 600 Japanese-Filipino children have sought help from his group, but that half may not qualify to go to Japan because they do not have the required documents.

Some 70,000 Filipinos live in Japan, most working as entertainers. AP

Thai exec dared: Prove degree real

From page A1

tional requirement that Cabinet members must possess at least a bachelor's degree, the issue became controversial for Chaisaeng, 46, because he had never before claimed to having possessed the degree in official documents.

Discrepancies in dates

It has also since been discovered that Chaisaeng was issued a passport for the first time only in 1994, a decade after he was supposed to have graduated from the Republican College.

The Republican College has confirmed to the Inquirer that Chaisaeng indeed graduated from the school in 1984 and that his records included a Special Order and Certificate of Authentication and Verification issued by the Commission on Higher Education to graduates of any course.

Numerous blogs in Thailand have come out with photos of Chaisaeng's records from the college, including his transcript of records and recommendation for graduation, which one blogger said were dated in him by a staff member at the registrar's office of Republican College.

The blog www.oknation.net/blog/Ruthless, posted by a Thai with the pen name "snowbuthuan," pointed out that the word "Republican" had been misspelled and appeared as "Republicon" in the transcript.

The blogger also asked why the date on the recommendation for graduation submitted to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) was dated Jan. 18, 2006, when Chaisaeng was supposed to have graduated 24 years before.

The Thai media have challenged the minister to produce solid proof, such as a diploma or pictures showing him while attending college, or even to name some of his more prominent Filipino classmates to end the controversy.

According to Thai newspaper reports, Chaisaeng has not issued any new statement regarding his educational background since he arrived in Manila from a foreign trip.

Thai Embassy statement

However, the Thai Embassy in Manila, in a statement sent to the Inquirer yesterday, said that Chaisaeng's representatives have presented official documents to support claim to having obtained academic credentials in the Philippines.

According to the statement, based on the documents, Chaisaeng was admitted to Republican College in June 1980, with entry credentials from the Assumption Thonburi School and Jamputhi Thammasathit-rathorn, two educational institutions in Thailand.

He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in commerce, major in management in March 1984.

The statement said this was supported by an official transcript of records and diploma issued by the college and reviewed by Special Order 50-040113-0012 Series 2000, issued by CHED.

Another document was a certification issued by the CHED National Capital Region office, through Conchero E. Cardeño, education supervisor 3, stating that Republican College was a duly recognized private higher educational institution in the Philippines with official campus address at 4-45 18th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.

The document also stated that the curricula appearing in the transcript of records and diplomas were authentic copies and the signatures were those of the college president and other school authorities.

Authentication certificate

These documents—the transcript and diploma as well as the signatures of the college officials—were issued an authentication certificate (SO 07-1000-03) by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, dated Jan. 17, 2006, the Thai Embassy statement said.

Chaisaeng has explained that he could not make a claim about his degree from the Philippines under because the college had not yet been accredited by the Philippine Private Education Commission at the time he graduated.

In his campaign flyers when he ran for the Bangkok City council in 1985, Chaisaeng stated his maximum education qualification as Grade 12, although in his post's general education, one flyer listed an "Advanced Diploma and Certificate in Logistics and Transport" among his qualifications.

Chaisaeng, a first-time minister, has been a politician for more than 20 years, according to a Thai newspaper report. He was a two-time city councilor and was elected member of parliament from three times since 1992. Between 2002 and 2004, he was an executive of the defunct Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. He is currently an executive member of the ruling People Power Party, which is thought to be a proxy group for the TRT. Ams Arnold Bimmerle

Ninoy killers now Cory's . . .

From page A1

Pointing life

died on March 14, but the convicted soldiers said they also wanted to pray for Aquino's quick recovery.

Sixteen soldiers were originally convicted for the double murders of Ninoy Aquino and Rolando Galman at the Manila International Airport in 1985.

"I was very touched by the gesture... Dapat ngay mag-umpisa sila ng panalangin Agosto dahil kinuha nila mahahaba, pero wala kang maluska na tanga at malalo nila (This would expect them to hold a prayer against the Aquino family since they are still in prison, but then were an issue of benevolence on their [part]," said lawyer Brenda Acosta yesterday.

In a phone interview, Acosta, head of the Public Attorneys' Office (PAO), said the soldiers refused to bar as early as Monday their desire to offer Masses for Aquino's recovery and prayers for the health of her daughter Kris.

"I don't they are lines of Kris and her husband (Jason Yap). They also want Kris to get well after she had a miscarriage," she said.

Daily intentions

All the surviving convicts in the Aquino-Galman murder case attended the early afternoon Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes chapel inside the maximum security compound, save for former Sgt. Rolando de Guzman, who suffered a stroke last year and was confined at the NBP hospital.

Prison chaplain Fr. Robert Ongpao officiated the hour-long Mass, attended by other prisoners who also wished to pray for Aquino's health and the repose of the souls of other dead inmates.

"The Ninoy convicts had been offering daily intentions for Mrs. Aquino since the news [about her health] came out on Monday. It's only today that a Mass was dedicated for her speedy recovery," the priest said.

Some of the soldiers—Lt. Jesus Canoy, Sgt. Filemon Miranda and Sgt. Ernesto Marco—served as lay ministers and sacristans during the Mass, Ongpao added.

Renewed love

He hastily on turning over a new leaf since reached on the importance of forgiveness and praying for the sick.

Acosta said Ongpao's homily stressed the value of reconciliation and forgiveness, especially in the light of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's refusal to forgive his father's killers.

"Ang sabi ng pagpapasimula ay ang pagdarasal. Ang spirit of forgiveness is love," Acosta quoted Ongpao as saying.

She added that some of the soldiers convicted for Ninoy's assassination were hoping that Aquino could influence her son to forgive the soldiers, who maintain their innocence in the 1983 murders.

Delayed clemency

Ongpao said the soldiers were afraid they would spend a longer time in prison instead of being granted successive clemency.

"With Cory sick, they're apprehensive they may not get out of prison soon because President Macapagal-Arroyo may not sign their clemency. But they also want Cory to get well," he said.

On whether the soldiers will ask forgiveness from the Aquinos, Ongpao recounted Capt. Romeo Dantes's answer: "Hanggang sa ngayon si [Sgt. Pablo] Martinez pero on time, dahil bilanin ni Ama Diyablesa already asked forgiveness on our behalf because we are also sinners."

Three dead

Of the 16 soldiers, three have died: Lisapio, who had a stroke and died on March 14; 61C Godwin Ereda, who was killed during a jail riot on Dec. 31, 2003; and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, who died of cancer in 1993.

Martinez was granted clemency in November last year and was eventually freed as he was suffering from hypertension, diabetes and a heart ailment.

At least 300 inmates assembled yesterday's Mass, which coincided with the PAO's scheduled medical and legal missions to the national penitentiary.

The PAO provided legal counseling, medical checkups and free medicines to the elderly inmates and other prisoners with pending requests for executive clemency yesterday morning before the Mass.

PRINT TOWN

Think GAIA
For Life and the Earth

SANYO

Sumilao land row over: Farmers, San Miguel ...

Front page A1

He also said the Department of Agrarian Reform had completed identifying the farmer-beneficiaries, but refused to divulge details.

"I don't want to preempt the signing of the agreement. We will disclose the details during the signing," he said.

Pangandaman said the farmers would be back in Bandar by Sunday morning, in time for a scheduled Mass on the 50-ha property.

"Right after the signing, we will go to the ground. We will settle the farmers," he said.

Nothing less

Farmer leader Napoleon Mejilla Jr., spokesman of farmers in Sumilao, said they were not overwhelmed by the signing of the agreement and the matters were "still being debated" but that they would settle for nothing less than 144 ha.

He also said that in of yesterday afternoon, the farmers had yet to receive an invitation to a meeting with Mr Arroyo at the Palace.

"What's clear to us is that we want to go home, and that we will only go home if we're sure that we're going to set foot on the whole 144 hectares," said Mejilla, president of the San Vicente Landless Farmers Association.

"The earlier this is resolved, the better. So we can go home early," he said.

Alyansa Magsasa, the farmers' legal counsel, did not respond to phone calls from the Inquirer.

Meeting with GMA

But earlier this month, SMC president Ramon Ang confirmed that an agreement brokered by the Catholic Church through Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales had been reached.

Earlier yesterday, Malacañang announced that the President would meet with the Higaonon farmers today.

The meeting comes three months and 12 days after Mr Arroyo opened the Palace gates to the farmers in an effort to resolve the long-drawn dispute over the land being tilled into an agro-industrial complex by SMC but which is considered by the farmers as their ancestral domain.

Days after that Dec. 17, 2007,

HAPPY ENDING Sumilao farmers hear thanksgiving Mass at the Church of the Gesu at Ateneo de Manila campus during the Easter vigil. EDWIN BACASMAS

meeting, Mr Arroyo authorized the issuance of an order acknowledging the property as agricultural land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

But SMC's legal arsenal prevented the government from immediately awarding the land to the farmers. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has said.

The farmers had been awarded the land under CARP, but Rubin Tarroza, then President Fidel V. Ramos' executive secretary, approved the conversion for agro-industrial use.

That land use conversion spoiled the decade-long agrarian conflict that grabbed the limelight late last year when the farmers walked for two months from Bukidnon to Mendiola—a distance of 1,700 kilometers—to take their case to Malacañang.

Congratulations

When the President meets with the farmers today, it will be to congratulate them for getting their farmland back somehow, according to the source in the Cabinet.

Under the agreement, the farmers will basically get the "total land area" that they are claiming. In return, SMC will "not be crippled substantially in its projected operations" and will still "achieve its production objective within the area," the source said.

Mr Arroyo had earlier on "encouraged" the contending parties to forge a compromise agreement, the source said, adding that the government's offer included lifting the property in agricultural land would now be considered invalid.

"This [agreement] supersedes that order," the source said. *Reports from Jocelyn R. Uy, Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño*

De La Salle University
DASMARIÑAS

College of Business Administration Graduate Studies

Courses offered:

Regular MBA & Techno MBA (Thesis and Non-Thesis Program)
Executive MBA, Diploma in Business Administration and Ph.D. in Business Administration

For inquiries, please e-mail us at cgsmarinas@mail.dasma.dlsu.edu.ph / mamendoza@mail.dasma.dlsu.edu.ph

you may also call (02) 884-7831, (046) 416-4691 to 92 local 3135/3185, telefax (046) 416-4693

Entrance examination slates April 5, 2008
Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays to Saturdays 8:00am to 5:30pm. Enrollment for 1st Term of 2008-2009 will be on May 24 to June 7, 2008

CPP orders NPA to raise guerrilla fronts ...

Front page A1

her key officials, the country-based rear theorizer and tasking person of the communists.

"The problem has already caused mobilization on a continued scale and reservation in certain areas," it said.

PNP on full alert

To preempt any guerrilla attacks, the Philippine National Police yesterday went on full nationwide alert. The Armed Forces of the Philippines said it had not elevated its alert status but is was ready for any rebel offensive.

"The guerrilla fronts must increase in number from the current level of 120-130 to 173 in order to cover all congressional districts in the provinces," the CPP said. "These must be used only for building new guerrilla fronts."

Military officials say the NPA has 87 guerrilla fronts throughout the country as of end-2007.

A guerrilla front refers to the rebels' area of operation, also called the "theater of war," according to NPA sources in Quezon province.

Intensify attacks

The guerrilla war has claimed more than 40,000 lives between 1969 and 2005, according to government figures and to independent sources.

Peace talks, brokered by Norway, have been stalled since August 2004 after the rebels accused the government of refusing to persuade the United States and some Western European states to remove the NPA from their terrorism watchlists.

Military officials have admitted the NPA will remain as the top internal security threat.

In its statement, the CPP leadership ordered its forces to intensify their tactical offensives to strike weaponry and meet the demands of what it claimed was an increasing number of guerrilla fighters.

Miners, loggers targets

The CPP said certain enterprises, such as mines, plantations, logging and certain infrastructures, were being targeted because these were detrimental to the interests of the people."

The CPP said that by attacking private business, rebel forces compelled the government "to deploy guard units or separate pieces, each one of which is not enough to protect itself adequately and is vulnerable to further offensive actions by the NPA."

Prospects for resuming formal talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) are "dim or nil," the CPP said.

"The Arroyo regime ... even demands the capitulation of the NDFP as precondition to mere exploratory talks," it said.

CPP beginnings

After an ideological split with a 1930s era pro-Soviet communist party that the military declared in the 1950s, former University of the Philippines professor Jose Maria Sison set up the CPP with a Maoist-oriented ideology in 1968.

In March 29 the following year, from just the formation of the HPA, the CPP's armed wing, from a raging group of 60 guerrillas armed with nine subcommand office, 20 single-shot rifles and handguns.

At its peak in the 1980s, the NPA had an armed strength of 25,000 men.

Mr Arroyo has given security forces until 2010 to defeat the guerrillas.

Rebel strength wanes—AFP

At the end of 2007, the military claimed the rebels' strength had dropped to its lowest level in 20 years, with 8,700 fighters.

HPF spokesperson Lt. Sgt. Nilanon Bartolome said the full alert ordered by PNP Chief Director General Avelino Razon meant all police personnel would have to stay at their post at all times.

"This is in preparation of the anniversary tomorrow of the New People's Army. We don't want our personnel to be placed in situations where they will be targeted, if ever there are plans from the NPA to conduct their own terrorist activities," Bartolome told reporters.

Bartolome said government forces were on track to meet the 2010 deadline to wipe out the NPA.

No specific threat

He said the PNP had not received any reports of specific plans by rebels to launch attacks but that they were watching them.

He said the number of NPA fighters had declined over the years.

"Many have been neutralized, some have been surrendering. We expect that their numbers will go down further especially since 2010 deadline is close," Bartolome said.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the AFP had not been put on red alert because there was no specific threat from the insurgents. But he added: "We simply have to be ready."

Commanders' discretion

Asked if the lack of a specific alert order indicated AFP confidence about the situation, Iscpero said: "We don't want to be complacent."

AFP spokesperson Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro said the alert level on the ground would depend on the "prevailing situation."

"The commanders ... have the discretion to determine the alert level they would implement in their areas of responsibility," Bacarro said. *With reports from Alexis Pages and Nikko Dizon*

Panasonic
ideas for life

THINK
CLEANER
with Panasonic ENVIO air conditioners – a cleaner design for cleaner air.

envio

Stylish elegance meets powerful air purifying technology in Panasonic ENVIO Window-Type air conditioners. It has a special cooling system equipped with the Super Nano-Buster Filter that keeps the air free from harmful elements. All in a sleek and functional design. Truly cleaner air never looked this cool.

FREE
+
FREE

24/7 Service Center (GMA 7MB Vi)
Toll No. 438-7878, 438-3678, 421-2888, 439-9898

www.panasonic.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 23 No. 119

OPINION

After Neri

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN NERI VS Senate Committee has stumped not only the Senate but the public at large. In the light of evidence that the National Broadband Network contract awarded to ZTE Corp. is anomalous, what should law-abiding citizens and their representatives do?

EDITORIAL

The evidence is there for all to see. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself said there was an anomaly; she admitted in a radio interview that she was made aware of it the night before the left for China to witness the signing of the contract. Ex-Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri himself said bribery attended the contract approval process; he told the Senate that Benjamin Abalos, then the chair of the Commission on Elections, offered him P200 million after a game of golf. Neri's lawyers in his Supreme Court petition themselves admitted, during oral arguments, that the subject conversation with the President, which Neri sought to keep confidential, involved the topic of bribery. Abalos himself acknowledged that he played a role in the approval of the ZTE contract; this admission of involvement in a non-election related project by the country's highest election official is already reason enough to investigate. Not least, the contract itself has suffered the fate that should await all anomalous transactions: it has been (provisionally) cancelled.

To state raw laws that will prevent similar anomalies from corrupting other government contracts, surely Congress needs to determine the exact nature of the NBN-ZTE anomaly. But the Supreme Court's decision in Neri vs Senate Committee effectively ties the hand of the Senate in probing the President's knowledge of the anomaly. To borrow, yet again, Sen. Howard Baker's threshold question from the Watergate scandal: What did the President know, and when did she know it?

(The "when" question is especially relevant, since Neri testified under oath that he had told President Arroyo of Abalos' alleged bribery offer before the ZTE contract was approved, whereas the President admits only that she was informed of something anomalous the night before the signing—that is, after the contract with ZTE had already been approved for signing.)

Fortunately, the Senate has its other hand free.

Perhaps it can begin by calling a caucus and agreeing on a joint position. We welcome the prospective suspension of the hearings being mulled by both Senate President Manuel Villar and blue ribbon committee chair Alan Peter Cayetano. The probe itself should continue, only the next hearing will be postponed. But the senators can use the time to come in tune with the high court's vexing decision, and to pursue a deliberate strategy.

The Senate should also, with the help of the country's ablest lawyers, prepare and then file a motion for reconsideration. It may yet be possible to change the mind of at least two justices in the nine-seat majority, and with the former, more compelling arguments; but even if the possibility is slim, the Senate must still do it. History is the ultimate court of last resort.

Once the three Senate committees investigating possible anomalies in the NBN-ZTE project are good and ready, the hearings can then resume. Perhaps then (but of all options this is the most unlikely to be chosen) the senators will agree to exchange the principle of equality (every senator gets the same question time, even if they end up asking the same questions) for the principle of efficiency (perhaps the senators can choose a lead questioner, to raise the quality of the questions).

In the end, it doesn't matter that the three questions subject of the Supreme Court ruling cannot be raised again, or that Neri may claim executive privilege on other questions. The list of unanswered questions, if expertly prepared for, will form a pattern which will indirectly describe the true nature of the anomaly, a pattern which the public can then read for itself.

Under what possible conditions of truth can, say, the five subject questions—"Did the President follow up on the NBN project"—be considered protected by executive privilege? Only when the answers answers wrongdoing.

So call Neri back to the Senate. This time, his selective silence will be damning.

Publisher Isabel Furiet
Editor in Chief/CEO Gabriel C. Pangalangan
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Rolando O. Elamino
Assistant Editor for Special Projects Rosario A. Garcia-Lao
Opinion Editor Jenar V. Ibasco
News Editor Arthur Y. Emboscado Jr. | Chief, Night Desk/Operations Mario Pajarito
Chief, News Desk/Copy Desk Ruben C. Almazora
Multimedia Editor Francisco D. Benolirao III
Arts and Culture Editor Jose Victor P. Torres
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Oscar H. Samaniego
Art & Design Director Lorie A. Villegas

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edwin O. Romero
Vice Chairman Emeritus Raul S. Guazon
Office of the Publisher Gaby Sosua R. Tan

All rights reserved.

Bringing the stalemate to an end

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY what the recent Supreme Court decision on the Neri vs Senate is all about. The 9-6 ruling nullifies the Senate's arrest and detention order against Romulo Neri for his failure to heed a Senate summons and answer further questions on the terms of President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the NBN-ZTE issue. It does not stop the Senate from calling him again to answer questions outside of the three previous ones in which he had specifically invoked executive privilege. The ruling leaves open the possibility that Neri might invoke the same privilege all over again with respect to some future questions. If the stalemate is not resolved between the two political branches, then everyone may have to stop by to see the Court again.

That need not be the case however. A great deney and a Senate so subservient to the executive that it would not even bother to challenge the latter's claim of executive privilege. Neither is the case now. The Senate has been calling the executive to account on a number of issues, and the latter has been responding. Neri himself has been in and out of the Senate to answer questions on a number of occasions. The Senate has not been a rubber stamp.

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

One need not be an expert on governance to know that this protracted stalemate can only impair the national interest in the long run. It was not hyperbole to announce that before the present Supreme Court under Chief Justice Reynato Puno to propose a provisional Congressional Senate, the Senate and Malacañang pending the Court's resolution of the final case. The normative efforts of the parliament could spill over to the other branches and agencies of government. One can appreciate why Chief Justice Puno was keen to shield the high court from the perils of political participation.

I am not sure how the public, nationwide, has received the Supreme Court ruling on the Neri case. The talk and text messages of ordinary citizens that I have heard on radio in the past few days have been quite alarming. They are filled with disgust, cynicism, and contempt. They had hoisted up to the highest magistrature of the land by a solemnity and high minded resolution of the stalemate. Yet the voting pattern of the justices in this case has only served to confirm their unpopularity about the political allegiances of the high court's members.

What is the lesson to do under the circumstances? The Senate can reassess its hearings and continue to gather information that may be useful not only in the crafting of new laws but also to the preparation of a new impeachment complaint against Mr. Arroyo. The Supreme Court anticipates that the same may eventually take this route, and as it has admonished the senators against prejudging a case to which they will eventually be the jury.

Or, the Senate can conclude the hearings and assess the filing of criminal complaints against certain individuals, including high government officials. There is an implied premise in the Court ruling to say that the evidentiary requirements of criminal proceedings may be allowed to override executive privilege, and thus bring out information that is being invoked in the current instance hearings.

The chances that any of these two options may prosper depend, of course, on the independence of the House of Representatives where the impeachment case will have to originate, and of the Ombudsman and the courts which will have to investigate and try the crimes, if indeed there is probable cause to charge them. The public perception of the credibility of these institutions, at the moment, is understandably low. That is precisely why the public has turned to the Senate hearings for information that they did not think the Department of Justice, or the Ombudsman, or the lower courts need to research.

It is therefore unlikely that the stalemate will have an easy resolution via existing political processes. Mid or the same is unavoidably politicized. In this arena, the options are limited.

In normal times, the logical destination of such a stalemate would be an election. The electorate can punish the administration by voting against anybody endorsed by its lawyers and her party, or would can punish the opposition senators who have made it difficult for the Arroyo regime to govern. But our current choices are Dr. Evil instead. That is why the question that begs us is whether we can wait until 2010 to resolve the impasse, and watch helplessly while the regime pushes the limits of presidential power and destroys every standing institution, or we must do something here and now to bring the stalemate to an end. God help us either way.

• • •

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Justice 'a few minutes away'

THE READER WILL REMEMBER THE CASE of Louie Guinara, grandson of President Elpidio Quirino, who is accused of murdering his stepbrother Rico Delgado.

But let us refresh the memory anyway. On March 11, 2007, Rico was found stabbed to death in his apartment inside a restored Edgardo Antonel building, with the name "Frances" written in blood on the wall. (In "girl friend," not that Frances, was the one who reported it to the police. Her initial statement: Rico invited her, brought her to his apartment to attend to p.m. to they were about to enter Rico's bedroom, two men came out, one grabbing Rico and the other beating her up, tying her hands and feet. Frances claims how I'll is the disturbing scene and telling her to lie down on one side. Subsequently, he asked her in the restroom, "Do you know Frances?" She answered: "Yes, sir," and to which he rejoined, "That's his brother, we were just ordered to do this, OK?" Instead, by the initial output of the police, as reported in the papers, was the lowly Frances.

Four days later, two changed her statement. This time, she said that the two men were masks, but one of them removed his mask while in the living room, and she saw his face by the light of the TV. She described him, a cunning-sighted dove his picture (complete with mole). She then was shown a picture of Louie Gonzalez (apparently thoughtfully provided by the Delgados), and she identified him as the killer. She also positively identified a former driver of Louie's mother as the person who beat her up. (That the second assailant never removed his mask did not deter her from picking out his picture.) The police then zeroed in on Louie as the prime suspect, with his mother's former driver as accomplice. Motive? Inheritance. Presumably Louie would inherit more than his mother's share if Delgado if Rico were dead—or something like that.

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

That police theory was, interestingly, suggested initially by the Delgados, according to then chief investigator Alex Tinsay (since suspended reportedly for the unexplained disappearance of money and jewelry of a murder victim). But the theory had two problems: the first was that Louie would not inherit anything from his stepfather since Louie's mother Vicky (none of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

The second was completely incomprehensible. And one that the police did not know when they adopted the Delgado-proffered theory: Louie has been confined at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (informally known as the Basement) of the Makati Medical Center (MMC), since March 7. On the night of the murder he was in no condition to leave the office very much: since Paco stood to inherit from his wife, his children were indirect heirs of Vicky (some of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

The second was completely incomprehensible. And one that the police did not know when they adopted the Delgado-proffered theory: Louie has been confined at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (informally known as the Basement) of the Makati Medical Center (MMC), since March 7. On the night of the murder he was in no condition to leave the office very much: since Paco stood to inherit from his wife, his children were indirect heirs of Vicky (some of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

The second matter completely incomprehensible. And one that the police did not know when they adopted the Delgado-proffered theory: Louie has been confined at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (informally known as the Basement) of the Makati Medical Center (MMC), since March 7. On the night of the murder he was in no condition to leave the office very much: since Paco stood to inherit from his wife, his children were indirect heirs of Vicky (some of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

The second matter completely incomprehensible. And one that the police did not know when they adopted the Delgado-proffered theory: Louie has been confined at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (informally known as the Basement) of the Makati Medical Center (MMC), since March 7. On the night of the murder he was in no condition to leave the office very much: since Paco stood to inherit from his wife, his children were indirect heirs of Vicky (some of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

The second matter completely incomprehensible. And one that the police did not know when they adopted the Delgado-proffered theory: Louie has been confined at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (informally known as the Basement) of the Makati Medical Center (MMC), since March 7. On the night of the murder he was in no condition to leave the office very much: since Paco stood to inherit from his wife, his children were indirect heirs of Vicky (some of whose have filed claims on Vicky's estate, asking to be appointed administrator in behalf of 95 year old Nena).

How widespread is corruption?

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Issue matters. There were bigger differences across than across social classes or employment sectors. The appraisal of pervasive corruption had a high of 68 percent in metro Manila and a low of 42 percent in Mindanao, with Luzon (56 percent) and Visayas (52 percent) in between, leaving discussion of the influence of class exposure. Because the relatively high scores in metro Manila, I suspect that there really are significant differences in the perceptions of corruption across different areas of the Philippines.

Presidential popularity is affected. The date of the citizenship survey, in late 2004, was also the last time that President Macapagal-Arroyo had a positive net satisfaction rating (+28). The gap ratings of +45 from those who put involvement in corruption as "hardly anyone," +46 from those who put it at "a small number," and +30 from those who said "moderate," but only +19 from those who said "many," and only +9 from those who said "almost everyone."

The global average is 36 percent. Though 51 percent of Filipinos considered it a majority, it would not be unfavorable if majorities in all other countries were also majorities (ranking 1=

LETTERS

GMA knows what distresses the nation

IN HER SPEECH DURING THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy's commencement exercises last March 16, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said that the nation is tired of the politics of despair and division. This is not true and she knows it. Only a seasoned liar could have made that statement with a straight face. When fair-minded Filipinos see the lies, deceptions and thievery in the highest offices of the land that characterize her administration. The nation will surely be devastated if it turns out that her Joint Mutual Security Undertaking (JMSU) deal with China and Vietnam has compromised the Philippine economic interest and territorial integrity—this, in exchange for Chinese loans that open for her husband and partners in crime (electoral and otherwise) to cluster opportunities for plunder.

The ZTE-NBN project-originated litany of possible anomalies in other Chinese-funded projects (i.e., Cyber Education and broadband and broadband) ill indeed, is alleged by some people, the JMSU has sold the Filipinos' birthright in exchange for instant-blow cash that LOOKS rich and unbelievable dig-ins. Here it is time there is no limit to the depravity of this administration.

Malacañang challenges GMA's detractors to take the case to the Supreme Court. The Chinese government is showing concern over the matter. In the first place, why was this deal kept under wraps during its inception?

In the same occasion, GMA bragged once more of the over 7-percent economic growth, the country recorded in 2007, oblivious of the reduced value of the OFW's peso remittances in the face of the rising prices of basic commodities, rising unemployment rate, rising criminality in the streets, combating poverty and mind-boggling indications of large-scale thievery in government projects. In the multi-core, grieving from one to cut, were "Gucci" proverbs, contrived bureaucratic and business opportunities fostered under the present scheme of things.

The valedictorian of the graduating class admonished his classmates to serve the people and the Constitution. The admonition, given in the presence of the Commander in Chief and the AFP chief of staff, was most appropriate. This year's PMA graduating class is labeled as a "new breed" of soldiers. The nation certainly hopes it will not produce "Gucci" generals from among its ranks.

GMA has tasked the class to help eliminate the scourge of insurgency by 2010. DBM has rescheduled the demise of the New People's Army half a dozen times in the last seven years she has been in office. AFP's top honcho, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, vowed upon the completion of his tenure last month that he will put an end to the insurgency in 100 days. The end of the AFP's over 40-year reign versus the NPA is still a "commendation devoutly to be wished." Better still, if before 2010 GMA's legacy of plunder and deceit will have been just a nightmare past and buried!

—LUCIANO F. H.,
42 Bahayan St., Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Change, not penalty, is key to end corruption

THIS IS A RESPONSE TO THE LETTER TI tled "Corrupt gov't officials deserve death by firing squad," (Inquirer, 3/20/08) Mr. author might a "shot them after" law as a "chaser to the other" kind of penalty for those kind of people in our government, but the type of penalty, whether incarceration, gassing or hanging won't really matter or help.

What we need is a better system of letting those persons and proving them guilty, but I admit, for instance, may have told the truth, but much of what he said can't really hold in court. Worse, his campaign is turning out to be viewed in some kind of a political sword owned by the opposition rather than a crusade for truth. Which makes him less and less credible as he keeps on talking.

This kind of situation would be fortunate for the accused who are innocent, and more so for the guilty ones who will later have allowed to remain scot-free, supported, feared, honored, applauded, constitutionally protected.

Despite the good intentions of courts and media or journalistic alike, the big difference between them will always remain: people who use freedom of speech or opinion in terms for "broadening" or crusading (and not pivotal proof) while sending the guilty to jail requires hard evidence, more than just leaks and scenarios. Most of us still believe in due process which is guaranteed by our Constitution and our justice system.

We are in a quicksand. And this is where our difficulties lies, because crooks have developed from Shaolin, and they have refined and fine-tuned his methods. They share the loot with the greedy clubs, find business opportunities to broaden the resident business base, and harass the military to keep a strong bodyguard flank.

But as long as there are the media and journalists who will remain independent and keep themselves free from corruption and refuse to be bought or intimidated, there will always be hope for the citizenry.

The letter writer took a leaf from Hindi dictatorships—however the government he gets, and for as long as we vote in the same way we have been doing, we will always have the same problems.

I believe we should wait for 2010. If truly there is corruption, then blame ourselves and let's make things right in 2010. If indeed there is something terribly wrong with the present administration, let's suffer for electing the wrong persons into government, maybe with a lot of pain so that we will think and think again and again before we cast that vote in 2010.

—VICTOR MANUEL,
victorlopak@yahoo.com

Madrigal shows true quality of Senate

BELINDA OLIVARES-CUNANAN'S MARCH 18 column was like a soothing breeze. Permit me to congratulate her for her comments on Sen. Jamby Madrigal. I was really disappointed when I saw the senator go into hysterics as she expressed her opposition to the promotion of around 29 military officers. Her behavior was unbecoming of an honorable senator of the land.

Her opposition, though based on a preconceived rule, was without any sane justification; it was surely oppressive to the officers, who I think should be accorded due respect. In her obvious try at grandstanding and vindictiveness, she has shown Filipinos the true quality of the Senate's honorable members.

And now with Senators Panfilo Lacson and Juan ponce Enrile Jr. she is thinking of breathing diplomatic protocol. Ding China into the partisan fray in our country, through a Senate investigation of the joint oil exploration agreement entered into by the Philippines, Vietnam and China.

In this highly competitive world of trade and commerce, we have to befriend (not antagonize) other countries for mutual economic benefit. We can no longer rely on the United States alone, which is slowly going into recession—economic recession because of its confrontational policies in its dealings with other nations, or else we will also be sucked into that country's recession as well.

We need the assistance of China, Japan and India and other emerging and economically powerful neighbors for us to jump-start our ailing economy. The price of oil at nine time hundred $130 a barrel. I don't care, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement has not been ratified by our Senators. Why?

—ISABELA VEGA,
m_vilar@yahoo.com

If not involved, why doesn't she go for the truth?

DO THE PEOPLE, BISHOPS AND MEDIA expect Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to really go after the truth? If she and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo were not involved in government irregularities, she would have gone after the truth to save herself and sacrifice those who are guilty—like now she sacrificed her former loyal ally ex-Speaker Jose de Venecia. But if her family is involved, would she really go after the truth?

Of course, no! Are most of us that stupid to believe and vote GMA to sincerely go after the truth? Is preventing Ronnie Ilet to testify at the Senate, there is no case even to protect, but the dark secrets of GMA and her family!

Let us all unite to have an honest government for the sake of our country and people. It is our duty and obligation as citizens to be vigilant. Otherwise, the country is lost and only evil will prevail.

—JOSE JACINTO,
ejhdcubo@yahoo.com

Shady characters can be used as witnesses

TOM TOLEDAS OF SEN. MEHAN ESPINOZA-Santiago's office, questioned Jun Lozada's credibility as a witness. He said, "... evidence to be credible must also come from a credible source." (Inquirer, 3/18/08)

In US courts, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other crime-busting groups use as witnesses shady characters and even convicted criminals and with their testimony make cases, they help to convict the guilty.

—ERIC MACAPAGAL
bugginet@yahoo.com

Inflated GDP understated inflation rate

I AM NOT AN ECONOMIST BUT I HAVE always been very doubtful of the GDP statistics released by the National Economic and Development Authority. The March 17 column ("Is our GDP growth overstated?") of Dr. Carlos Ibáñez confirmed my suspicions that Neda's GDP is bloated.

I believe that the source and real GDP will be even smaller than the 4.8 percent estimate of Peter Wallace if the correct inflation rate is taken into consideration.

Go to department stores, supermarkets and wet markets to find out whether or not the inflation rate is very much understated.

—IGNOR LEON,
eliaor@mydestiny.net

CARP enriching the wrong 'farmers' only

THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REform Program is expiring by June this year. I would like to tell you who's winning and who's hurting. But that's an impossible task. The government's agrarian reform program is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. That's how government seems to like it.

If you and I are inside the CARP system, government enjoys the power to dole out more favors. When the government says more farmers are richer than ever before, it may be telling the truth. But it may be fudging the facts when it comes to the bottom line—especially for the actual farm tillers.

Exactly which "farmers" are richer? The guys in malacañang boats who drive Pajeros? Or the sun-burned folk riding carabaos?

One thing is for certain. I don't see carabaos parked outside Starbucks yet.

—JOSEPH PLATO,
joseph@greenrevolutionists.net

EXTENDED until April 17, 2008

2008 Search for OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS and EMPLOYEES

Extension of Deadline for Submission of Nominations

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announces the extension of the deadline for the submission of nominations to the 2008 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees from March 31, 2008 to April 17, 2008.

Through CSC Memorandum Circular No. 5, s. 2008, said extension of deadline was circularized to all CSC Regional Offices for its dissemination.

For further details, please contact the following:

The Public Assistance and Information Office
(Honor Awards Program Secretariat)

Landline : 931-7993, 932-8381
Telefax : 932-0174
CSC Hotline : 932-0111
Text CSC : 09178368272

Website : www.csc.gov.ph
email : paio@csc.gov.ph, hap@csc.gov.ph
csc_paio@yahoo.com

The CSC Regional and Field Offices nationwide

INQUIRER Visayas

Veterans rue fighting their 'longest war'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

THEY CAME WALKING slowly with canes. Others were brought in wheelchairs or field by their loved ones.

They proudly displayed their medals pinned to their blue uniform worn as they tried to stand firmly while saluting old friends and colleagues.

But 63 years after they helped liberate the islands of Panay, Guimaras and Negros from Japanese occupation, veterans of World War II are fighting a much longer and difficult battle for recognition and benefits.

"This is the longest war that we are still fighting. It is longer than the 30 Years' War in Europe," said Rodolfo Lanuzo, president of the Iloilo Military District (WW2) Veterans Association Inc., in a speech on March 18 marking the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of the Ilo-Ilo islands from Japanese occupation.

The commemorative rites, held at the Balantang Memorial Cemetery and Shrine at Molino in the sugar city Quezon, Iloilo in Iloilo province bordering Bacolod City, was attended by about 500 veterans and relatives.

Lanuzo said it was "very ironic" that after fighting for many against Japanese forces, they have to fight for recognition from the Philippines's closest ally, the United States, and for adequate benefits from the Philippine government.

"The veterans are fighting for the same benefits as their American counterparts. They are pushing for the passage of the Philippine Veterans Equity Act, which will rescind the Rescission Act of 1946.

The Rescission Act considers the service of Filipinos "shall not be deemed to be or to have been service in the military or national forces of the United States or any component thereof or any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits."

Lanuzo said this law is the "greatest injustice done to us by America after we fought side by side with troops of Gen. Douglas MacArthur."

He said this deprived hundreds of thousands of Filipino WWII veterans of pensions, education and subsidies and other benefits.

The bill has reportedly failed to pass in the US Congress despite being filed several times.

Jonas Tony Ademos, Presidential Assistant for Western Affairs, said during the program that, according to US legislators sponsoring the bill, they were working for the passage of the legislation by the end of this month and April.

He said if the passage of the bill is being opposed by the Republican party of US President George W. Bush.

Ademos, however, said that despite campaigns being waged by the Philippine government for the passage of the bill, it would still be up to US legislators. "We can only hope and pray," Ademos said. They were also fighting a similar battle on the home front.

"Our own government has neglected to hand [our] eligibility pension. We are still waiting for government to redeem their pledge to overseas," he said.

The veterans receive a monthly "old-age pension" of P5,000 and an administrative disability pension of P1,500 for those with disability and all those 75 years old and above.

Modesto Billoso, 84, who fought with other guerrillas in Iloa and other southern towns of Iloilo said the monthly pension "is very small for our needs."

"They have been promising us a lot of things for a long time. But we have yet to receive them," Billoso told the Inquirer.

Lanuzo said the pension should be regularly adjusted to reflect current cost of living similar to the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System.

He said the government owed each veteran around P200,000 because of the non-payment or delay of pensions.

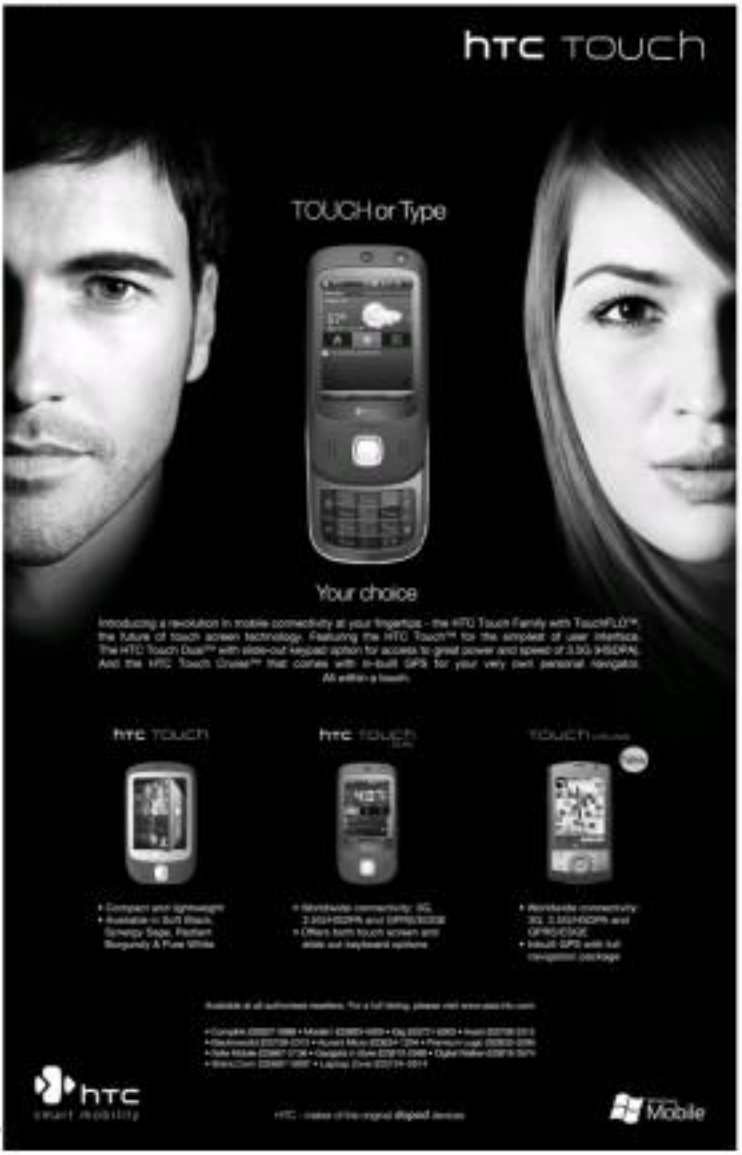
Defense Undersecretary Severino Rasonio Catubias, officer in charge of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, said the government had total arrears of P6 billion for old-age pension but around P3.7 billion has already been paid. He said the remaining amount was expected to be settled by the end of this year.

There are around 250,000 beneficiaries of pension for veterans including by around 70,000 surviving veterans, said Catubias.

The government also has a funding for payments for the administrative disability pension amounting to P22 billion from 1994 to 2007.

WORLD War II veterans attend the unveiling of the Wall of Honor(s) at the Balantang Memorial Cemetery and National Shrine in Barangay Quezon Sara, Jaro, Iloilo City. The Wall is embellished with the names of 1,421 guerrilla soldiers who died fighting during the war.

THEIR war veteran is among the thousands still fighting for the same benefits as their American counterparts.



Across the NATION

Vizcaya folk lose rice lands to Aussie mining operations

KASIBU, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Tribal residents of this upland town have expressed disgust over the rapid loss of their villages' rice lands amid the ongoing land-clearing operations by Australian mining firm OceanaGold Philippines Inc.

Officials of Didipio village here fear the looming shortage of locally produced rice and silver from products as OceanaGold continues to bulldoze lands despite court restrictions hounding its planned operations.

Didipio is the site of OceanaGold's proposed $117-million gold-copper project that is being opposed by the residents as well as the Catholic Church due to what they said were human rights violations allegedly committed by the company.

Rice lands within the planned 429-hectare primary impact area, which the company sought access to, have now become barren years of land-clearing activities by the mining project.

DIDIPIO farmers fear the destruction of Dinacopa River, their main source of irrigation and a tributary of Cagayan River, when floods rise thanks to Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan. RAUL DANCEL/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

"The company does not yet have any assurance if it will definitely start operations as scheduled because of the construction problems it is encountering now. Yet, it is destroying farm lands everywhere," said village council member Carmen Ananayo.

Residents have echoed concerns that the country is experiencing rice shortage because the government is rebranding the best of rice lands due to land conversion.

"What if later on, the company is ordered to stop this project, can it bring back the lands it has destroyed to their original fertile state?" she asked.

Lorenzo Pulido, also a village council member, said he fears the day when villagers of Didipio will have to go to the lowland areas to buy their staple because their rice lands have been converted into a mining site.

Since December, OceanaGold has been clearing lands in Didipio to an attempt to meet its February 2007 target as start of production.

But it has been hit with delays as residents continue to resist the company's attempts to eject them from their lands.

Officials here also denounced the haphazard destruction of the village's main tourism, which divide into the Didipio River here.

The river is among the headwaters of Cagayan River, which provides irrigation not only to farm lands in the area, but also to vast tracts of rice lands in Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan.

On Monday, Bishop Ramon Villena asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend the operations of OceanaGold, amid the latest incidents of violence in the area in connection with the company's ongoing demolition activities.

Villena, who is also chair of the Regional Development Council for Cagayan Valley, has opposed the Didipio project, saying it does not follow the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's goal of developing Northern Luzon as an agribusiness belt. —Myla G. Garcia, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Palawan gov't sees no evil, hears no evil on baselines

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE Palawan provincial government refuses to take a position on whether to support the entry, in lieu of the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU), which involves oil and gas exploration with China and Vietnam in waters within its province.

Gov. Joel T. Reyes said on Thursday the provincial government is following the debate on the implications of the JMSU on the sovereignty of the country in the western Bank of Palawan with the inclusion of China and Vietnam in the ongoing seismic exploration.

"That really puts us in a very awkward position because the disputed areas are in our municipalities. But at the same time with due respect to our Executive, there is also a national policy regarding this matter," said Reyes, who led a throng of pro-Arroyo governors in claiming ownership of hundreds of thousands of pesos of aide gifts that dropped lately inside Malacañang records.

Critics of the JMSU accused the Arroyo administration of selling out Philippine territory by allowing China and Vietnam to explore gas deposits in Philippine waters.

They accused the Arroyo administration of doing so in exchange for billions of dollars in funds from China.

Reyes said Palawan officials would oppose moves to exclude the Kalayaan Islands from the boundaries bill that is being deliberated in Congress to comply with a United Nations deadline for the Philippines to delineate its territorial boundaries.

Reyes said leveling Kalayaan Islands as a mere "region of islands" in lack of weather on the part of the government.

"We like to see it [as] provident...So far as our international standing is concerned, other neighboring countries who are watching as will not start bullying us because we will have shown that we don't have the guts," Reyes said.

"We have to wear 32nd municipality," said the governor.

—Rodempeter Ando, Inquirer Southern Luzon

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S... President Macapagal-Arroyo aboard the helicopter, leaves once residents awaiting her arrival for breakfast and dental mission in Malabon. Enrique del Mundo

Protestant execs decry delay in murder solution

By Jon A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

DAGUHAN CITY—OFFICIALS of the United Church of Christ in Leyte renewed their call for the solution of the killings of Pastor Bienvenido Cotiadon who was shot dead last Jan. 23.

Pastor Isaac Belaba, project coordinator of the UCCP-Leyte, said two months have already passed and the police have yet to establish the motive for the killing of the 69-year-old pastor.

Cotiadon was shot to death by one of two motorcycle-riding men Jan. 23 in Barangay Balacawan, Abuyog, Leyte.

The victim, who was also killing a motorcycle, was on his way to the town of Matagoling to carry out his religious duties as a pastor of the UCCP.

Bernie Inog, based Lacrum, chief of police of Abuyog, said no witnesses wanted to come out.

Cotiadon was the third murdered UCCP minister in Leyte. The two others were Alfredo Davis who was killed April 15, 2000, and Pastor Edison Lapid, shot dead May 13, 2005. Their murderers are unsolved.

Pastor Belaba expressed hope that the case of Cotiadon would not suffer the same fate as those of other victims of extrajudicial killings.

Belaba said the UCCP has no links with any militant group.

"Serving our people in the communities is part of our Christian role and should not be given war meaning," Belaba said.

Bus firm stops Davao-Cotabato trips

COTABATO CITY—THE LONE bus firm servicing the Davao-Cotabato route is stopping its trip to North Cotabato on April 1, company official said.

"Bidding, relocation and the increasing number of non-paying passengers... prompted the bus management to stop servicing almost one half of the distance," said Eddie Soledad, Cotabato area manager of Weena Bus Company.

Soledad said the firm loses at least P7,000 a day per bus to people who refuse to pay fare.

"When asked to pay, these passengers would threaten our bus conductors and drivers," Soledad said.

He said Weena is planning to service the Davao to Kidapawan, North Cotabato route only and would stop servicing the Kidapawan to Cotabato City route "unless the local government units of the towns covered by Weena would help us address the problem."

"This is to protect our drivers and safety of our drivers and conductors but (of) the riding public as well," he said in a radio interview.

Executive group said several feeler have launched bomb attacks on the bus lines.

The Weena management has already informed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board in Central and Southern Mindanao about the "unsafe trip," he said.

Rodolfo Magpilan, LTFRB General Mindanao administration officer, said his office was working with the bus management to find solutions.

Cotabato Mayor Muslimin Sema said he doesn't see any problem if Weena stops servicing the route to his city since there are other public utility vehicles available for commuters.

But Mayor Lourdes Cabasor of Kidapawan, North Cotabato, said problems like this will affect the province's economy.

"The bus branch here is not part of our lives," he said. (Edwards Arumenders, Inquirer Mindanao)

NEWSBRIEFS

■ IBA, ZAMBALES

China firm to haul lahar from Zambales

A CHINESE construction company has entered into an agreement with the provincial government to haul billions of cubic meters of lahar deposits at the Municipal River in Olongapo and the Bucao River in Botolan town.

Jing Dehjun, provincial investment consultant, said Hongfeng International Holdings Ltd. signed with Governor Deloso to establish a joint venture with Zambales' municipality for the construction projects.

Deloso added the project is "win-win deal" because it would not only aid the province in lahar haul but it will also provide funds for the provincial government.

Inquirer Central Luzon

■ SORSOGON CITY

Drug trafficker falls after years of hiding

BISMAR Rabilloza Bantol, Central Bikolnon's most wanted drug trafficker, has finally been captured after eluding arrest for years.

Abdul, of Barangay Rawis in Sorsogon City, was arrested by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Sorsogon City police.

PDEA-Bicol said the drug trafficker was also wanted by military and police authorities at a checkpoint.

—Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Bikolnet

■ OLONGAPO CITY

Transfer of offices to Pagadian seen

OLONGAPO—Zambonga del Sur Rep. Aurora Cerilles said the 2006 General Appropriations Act (GAA) contains a P200-million "bridging fund," which will be used to facilitate the transfer of regional offices to the new location.

Former President Corazon Aquino ordered the transfer of the regional offices from Zamboanga City to Pagadian City about 15 years ago. The transfer was opposed by several officials for lack of funds.

Cerilles said the fund proposed by the DAR can now be used to construct buildings inside the provincial capitol for some regional offices.

A total of 48 agencies are expected to move their regional offices to Pagadian from Zamboanga.

Ryan D. Panares, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BULACAN

American professor found dead in Bulacan

AN AMERICAN professor was found dead inside his parked pickup truck in Malolos, Bulacan, Monday morning.

Police said they believed Dr. Roger Mikesell was murdered. A gunman, found stuffed into his mouth, pulled a gun at point-blank. Mikesell, 58, was a consultant and visiting professor at the Bulacan State University at the time of his death.

He also worked as a volunteer at the provincial jail where the group Jaros hanapbuhay counseling inmates.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ EASTERN SAMAR

Caravan of hope for flood victims

PORTS from government agencies and nongovernment organizations led by the Philippine Government and Camping Corp. (Pagcor), the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Health, have provided resources and manpower to help victims of flooding in Eastern Samar.

A Pagcor press release said the project benefited more than 10,000 families.

The press release said boy, 4, drowned when he was abandoned by their parents, not rescued through the project.

MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT FOR HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

The **Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated (PNPAAAI)** hereby declares its unwavering, unequivocal and continuing support to the administration and governance of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo;

Notwithstanding the numerous implied allegations imputed against **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**, these supposed wrongdoings have not been scrutinized fully nor proven within the prescribed standards of our judicial system, as these alleged acts remain unsubstantiated even by those who peddle these issues in the public fora, in the streets and over the mass media;

What is interesting to note is that these individuals or groups who call for the ouster of **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** do not represent the true sentiments of the greater majority of our people throughout the Philippines as they only reflect the perceptions of those residing in the Metropolitan Manila, an area that is by nature, history and tradition, politically and socially militant;

The greater number of our people remain loyal and steadfast in manifesting their respect for the Constitution and our institutions of government;

The **Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated** belongs to this class and rejects outright any attempt by any individual or group, inside or outside the government, to subvert, destabilize and/or overthrow our Government;

The **Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated** subscribes to peace, stability and progress through continuing and sustained economic growth and gains espoused by the incumbent Arroyo Administration, and shares the vision of every ordinary Filipino of a good government imbued with transparency and social responsibility. All of us want peace and order, but order must first prevail; and

Finally, We, in the **Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association, Incorporated**, are one with the President, who is one with our people and who are one with our Constitution.

Done at the Philippine National Police Academy, Camp General Mariano N Castañeda, Silang, Cavite, Philippines, this 26th day of March in the Year Twenty Hundred and Eight.

FOR THE PNPAAAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

PSSUPT CEDRICK G TRAIN (DSC) CSEE
Chairman and President

ATTESTED:

FDIR ROGELIO P ASIGNADO (RET) CESO IV
Vice Chairman and Chairman EXECOM

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Just use your
SMART International Roaming
and get FREE travel insurance of up to P3 million – an exclusive privilege for Gold subscribers, only from SMART.

Enroll today for FREE!

Text **INSURE** <name>/<address>/<birthday in MMDDYY>/<gender> and send to **433**.

Ex.: INSURE Jess Ramos/109 Nakpil St., Manila/112078/M

FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Valid for unlimited number of overseas trips within 1 year of enrollment, up to 5 days per trip.

Delayed Flight Protection • Travel Accident Insurance • Cancelled Flight Protection Travel Misconnection • Delayed Luggage Protection • Lost Luggage Protection Lost Travel Documents Protection

In partnership with MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE and ANG

SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2008

NEWS

NPC may field Loren-Chiz duo

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

ESCUDERO

LEGARDA

THE NATIONALIST PEOPLE'S Coalition (NPC) is mulling that a potential team-up of its chubby incumbents and pill-toppers, Senators Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero, will be the norm to bank in 2010. But the question remains—will Dr. Chi Gonzalez on who will be the standard-bearer?

"The opposition leaders of Senators Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero will handily beat in the 2010 presidential and vice presidential elections any candidates the administration may name, including Vice President Noli de Castro," said former senator Ernesto Maceda, president emeritus of the NPC.

Maceda said that De Castro, who was displaying an unenthusiastic candidacy in 2010, might have topped the recent Pulse Asia survey on potential presidential bets but his 21.5 percent share would be easily eclipsed by a "dream team" Legarda-Escudero combination, who placed second and third, respectively, in the survey.

"It's too early for Mr. De Castro to count his chickens," said Maceda, noting that the ruling Lakas-CMD party did not vote De Castro as a sure pick to head the administration ticket.

Open options

However, both Legarda and Escudero have so far refused to sign declarations for 2010, preferring to keep their options open while reserving loyalty to their party.

In an interview, Legarda said: "I'm belong to the same party and can be expected to abide by party decisions, the promise being that such decisions are made not only for the good of the party but to benefit all Filipinos.

"But it's not time to talk about 2010 because we must concern ourselves with pressing problems like the threat of a hollows rice supply crisis, compounded by the spiraling prices of oil products. The election is still over two years down the road and as the Good Book says, let us let tomorrow do the worrying on itself."

When asked about his plans for 2010, Escudero said in a telephone interview that he had not yet received overtures from any political standbearer, including Legarda, about a possible team-up.

Nothing definite

"There is nothing definite and no definite answers for me despite various—any president gives me something—not a bold answer, more of innuendoes, he it's too early to ask and it's also too early to answer," he said.

When asked if he was open to becoming the second man behind a standard-bearer, Escudero said: "That is too early to answer and too early for them to ask. Although it is my dream to be a president, that is also the dream of all public men. But to actually plan at this time, that you're doing something about it, that's a totally different story."

Legarda and Escudero emerged as comers-out and two in holding the public's trust based on the latest Pulse Asia survey conducted from Feb. 21 to March 1.

Legarda got 70 percent while Escudero had 59 percent in the trust ratings, ahead of Senators Blas Ople (57 percent), Pimentel (51 percent), Manny Villar (50 percent) and De Castro (49 percent).

Nemesio Prudente is dead

PRUDENTE

NEMESIO PRUDENTE, THE former president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and veteran rights advocate, died early yesterday in a Cavite hospital. He was 83.

One of the most prominent political prisoners of the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Prudente died following a almost a month of confinement at the De La Salle Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite, for nephritis (kidney ailment).

Dante said his uncle underwent a successful prostate operation but suffered an allergic reaction to antibiotics, which resulted in complications.

"We didn't have allergies before but it must be because of his age," said Dante, who added that his uncle already had several illnesses before his prostate condition.

Prudente's remains were cremated at 3 p.m. yesterday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Parañaque in accordance with his request that his be cremated within 24 hours of his death.

His ashes will be brought to a memorial service at 7:30 p.m. on April 2 at the Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Samuel Salcedo, the PUP vice president for academic affairs, said the school would make arrangements with the family to have the remains brought to the PUP main campus in Sta. Mesa for students and others.

Prudente is survived by his wife, Ruth Gaerlan, and children Reina Ma. Martin, Raven and Nicky Salcedo and Prudente was a "nationalist and a statesman" who transformed PUP from a small college to a large university.

"We are very grateful for his contribution to the university which he expanded in so many ways," said Salcedo.

Prudente served as PUP president from 1962 to 1971, when he was arrested by the Marcos regime for his alleged links to the left.

He was freed from prison in 1986 and reinstalled as PUP president when President Aquino assumed power.

Prudente is credited with revitalizing public education in the Philippines by launching socially-oriented changes in the state university.

The outspoken Prudente escaped two attempts on his life, both arising from his condemnation of human rights abuses by the authorities.

On May 14, 1987, he survived an ambush on the new Lambingan Bridge on his Asia, Manila, in which his lawyer was killed.

Less than a year later, on June 30, 1988, he was wounded in another ambush while riding in his car in the PUP Diamond with his guards, who were in a jeep behind him, were killed instantly.

It took 11 years for the policemen to be convicted in the 1988 ambush and for the killing of President's escorts. Allison Lopez and Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Peralta is new Sandiganbayan presiding justice

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS appointed Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta as presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced yesterday.

Peralta, who celebrated his 56th birthday last Thursday, received a letter from the President yesterday informing him of his new appointment.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Assistant Ricardo Saludo signed Peralta's papers yesterday.

In a letter to Chief Justice Reynato Puno yesterday, Ermita transmitted Peralta's appointment papers to him.

Ermita said the new Sandiganbayan presiding justice was nominated to the position by the Judicial and Bar Council last March 10.

Peralta, named as the "plunder judge," was one of the three justices who exonerated former president Joseph Estrada of plunder in September 2007.

Appointed to the Sandiganbayan in July 2002, Peralta made it to the headlines in 2001 when he sentenced Temanga Macaraig, a cashier at the then-Department of Interior and Local Government, to two life terms for economic plunder—the first such conviction since plunder was established as a crime in 1991.

Macaraig was found guilty of diverting more than P200 million with falsifying tax payments into two personal bank accounts from 1998 to 1997, which she later withdrew. Christine O. Avendaño with Jomi Dionisio, Inquirer Research

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Diposcupil

Scavenger killed in Taguig explosion

By John M. Bordio

A SCAVENGER WAS KILLED early yesterday morning in front of his shanty in Barangay Signal Village in Taguig City, while the explosives he was holding exploded.

Jose Alfonso, 40, of 28 Malaver Street, Bagumbayan Hills, Zone 1, was the lone casualty.

He was killed instantly; the blast severed his feet and lower body.

Chief of police Supt. Alfred Corpuz said Alfonso was seen tinkering with the grenade sometime after 6 a.m.

Some of the crime operatives have recovered parts of the grenade's fuse, detonator and safety lever on site.

The victim could have removed the pin from the grenade, causing it to blow up, said investigator PO3 Jaarvis Obles.

Corpuz did not think there was foul play involved, nor did he suppose terrorists had a hand in the incident. An investigation of the incident is underway.

BOMB Squad and Scene of the Crime investigators inspect the blast site in Signal Village, Taguig City where a scavenger died after a grenade he was holding exploded early yesterday morning. EDU BOCO

Suspended Rizal mayor charged with sedition

By Kristine L. Alave

SEDITION CHARGES WERE filed yesterday against suspended Rodriguez Mayor Jesus Cruz in the Sandiganbayan's Quezon City office in the battle for control of the town's command.

Cruz said Cuerpo was responsible for the "breach of peace" in the town when he used his supporters took over the town hall last Monday.

Cuerpo was suspended for 60 days by the provincial government for allegedly raising the garbage fees for the use of the town's landfill. Cruz, the vice mayor, then took over the post of mayor.

Cruz also charged with resistance and disobedience to persons in authority after council members who had been with the suspended official since Monday.

Citing the Revised Penal Code, Cruz said the crime was committed by persons "who rise publicly and tumultuously" to prevent an official from discharging their duties.

Two town hall employees sustained gunshot wounds in the scuffle between Cuerpo and policemen on March 24.

Cruz said the takeover aimed to prevent the municipal government of Rodriguez, from carrying out "illegal, unlawful, and in an unlawful manner day to day operations and functions."

Cuerpo, who has been holed up in the Office of the Mayor since Monday, said he would not leave until after the Office of the President resolved his appeal against the suspension.

Metro mayors adopt traffic guidelines

Compromise reached with MMDA; single ticket scheme still on hold

By DJ Yap

METRO MANILA MAYORS AGREED YESTERDAY to adopt certain guidelines in implementing traffic rules in the metropolis, but still failed to accept the single traffic ticketing scheme.

Seven mayors attended the Metro Manila Council meeting at the MMDA headquarters on Edsa in Makati City. They were Benjamin Abalos, Jr. of Mandaluyong, Wenceslao Trinidad of Pasay, Tobias Tiangco of Navotas, JV Ejercito of San Juan, Virgel Aguilar of Las Piñas, Teodolfo Tinga of Taguig and Ricardo Echavez of Caloocan.

The other 10 Metro Manila local government executives sent representatives.

During the meeting marked by compromises, the mayors agreed to recognize each city's Ordinance Violation Receipt (OVR). This means a ticket issued by one local government to a motorist would be recognized in another city or municipality.

Drivers whose licenses were confiscated in another part of the metropolis would be cited in another city for "driving without a license."

Local government leaders also agreed to recognize the powers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to enforce traffic rules along national roads. Local government units (LGUs) would have control over local streets.

"In effect, OVRs will be recognized by the LGUs and the MMDA. And the LGUs will recognize the MMDA's power to man national roads," Abalos said.

But the single ticketing scheme remained in limbo as mayors insisted their right to enforce their own traffic codes in their jurisdictions.

Malacañang issued recently Executive Order 712 directing the MMDA to implement a single ticketing scheme, but city mayors insisted their autonomy and right to enforce their own traffic ordinances.

Abalos said the problem with the single ticketing system was a "matter of semantics" and that the scheme had to be properly defined. Single ticketing could mean one type of ticket recognized by all or different types of tickets "honored everywhere," the mayor said.

Abalos said the city or town council should be left to determine penalties for traffic violations since each city has different traffic conditions.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando, however, said he was optimistic that the Metro Traffic Ticketing System, could still be implemented.

UP reroutes traffic

By Cresen B. Bilon Jr.
Sun.Star Cebu

THE ACADEMIC OVAL, THE CIRCUITOUS street road that connects University Avenue of the University of the Philippines in Belleza, Quezon City to Katipunan Ave. is now two-way (west).

University officials put into effect the new traffic scheme on March 26. The oval is bounded by the Administration Building, Ilaperia, the university library and the Sunken Garden.

Public Information Desk Coordinator Marcos Arc and Bienvenido Arc must turn right on Roxas Ave., passing the Faculty Center, Palma Hall, Palma Hall Annex, the College of Education and Melencio Hall.

Vehicles from Katipunan must turn right on Osmeña Ave. where the College of Engineering, UP Theater, Carillon and the College of Music are located.

Buses, fewer, that run through the oval and connect the Faculty Center and College of Engineering is still two-way.

Dr. Cynthia Grace C. Gregorio, vice chancellor for community affairs, said the one-way scheme was the initial phase in the implementation of the UP Traffic Management Plan.

The plan aims to lessen the number of vehicles passing through the university, subsequently reducing pollution and risks for UP students.

Ultimately, she said, the goal was a "vehicle-free" as recommended by the UP Transport Committee.

Gregorio told the Inquirer that the one-way scheme was a result of a study conducted by the committee. Under the scheme, the university road was divided into two as one lane for motor vehicles and an outer lane designated as a bike way.

Gregorio said the university assigned people in critical intersections and junctions, such as in front of Quezon Hall (Administration Building), to direct motorists.

Hometown decisions

APPREHENSIVE THAT MALACAÑANG may ask Aquino's cabinet would cut back the "GMA corps" movement are leaders.

The movement will even win more adherents with cuts in bid.

A Malacañang Gate will get most votes, politicos that when the vote ballots.

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

All the more reason they should be removed from the Cebu branch because they could be influenced by their townmates in rendering judgment on cases in their hometown.

* * *

I remember when my old man was still in the defunct Philippine Commission Jary (PC) and he wanted to be assigned to Davao as provincial commander because his hometown.

At that time there was only one Davao province.

He wish was not granted.

Why? Because he was married to my mother who comes from Davao.

The reason given by then PC officer could not be assigned to his home province or the home province of his wife.

Why can't the same rule be applied in the Court of Appeals?

* * *

Two weeks after that column pointed out the self-serving and scandalous protests put up by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) along Edsa, they're still there.

"Still turning" and "scandalous" because they're nothing but a political gimmick of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who looks to the 2010 presidential election with rosy eyes.

The big praises, with Fernando's image occupying half of the space, explains the public to dump cadre (Concourse) in the streets.

I wouldn't have any quarrel with Fernando if his face were not on the posters.

He is campaigning early using MMDA money.

As I said in my column of March 13, the poster doesn't appeal to the public because it seems to contradict the "Metro Image" program he launched to beautify Metro Manila.

MetroBriefs

Bomb scare at BIR

MANDAUE (CDN) – The bureau of Internal Revenue in Quezon City said a regional trial court of this Quezon City Hall of Justice prosecutor to file the latest yesterday after its offices received bomb threats. SPO1 Christopher Marquez, senior bomb technician of the Quezon City Police District's Explosive and Ordnance Division, said an anonymous caller at 12:07 p.m. March 27 B received a telephone call from an unidentified male at around 8:05 a.m. The man reportedly said that a bomb brought by an unknown armed suspect inside their office. But after inspecting the site, Marquez said they did not find any trace of explosives. He said they were still investigating if the incident was linked to criminal cases being heard by the court. RTC branch 79 at ...another chief clerk phoned the BIR regional office in Quezon Services and instructed him to check on the rooms of the eight sala's judges in case of explosives. As said by the building was evacuated and searched. BOB operatives, however, did not find any trace of a bomb. Marquez said they believed the same person was behind the same threat," he told the reporters. He said they advised the security personnel of the area of Hall to be more vigilant and to call police if they see any suspicious scene. **Alvino Ramos**

Sea sports opens today

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim will formally open the action 2008 on 7 a.m. today at the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. There will be an inspection of marshal arches, followed by dragon boat eliminations, marathon qualifying heats and fun games. Tomorrow, the 6.5-km boat as well as the kundiman secretariat will be held starting at 8 a.m. Fun games will be conducted prior to the kundiman championship from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. To cap the two-day event, organizers said host an awards night and musical concert featuring singer Mocha. The festival was organized by the Manila Broadcasting Co. in cooperation with the City of Manila and the Philippine Coast Guard in coordination with Globe, Cultex, Benilon, Gold Eagle Beer, Bunker Diesels, Coca Marina Epoxy and Briggs and Stratton.

Divine Mercy book launch

A BOOK on the Divine Mercy Apostolate in the country entitled "Divine Mercy in the Philippines" will be launched this afternoon at the Philippine Heritage Hall. Archbishop Antonio Ross of the Divine Mercy Mystic Circle, Bishop Broderick Pabillo of Manila Archdiocese Commission on Mercy and Father Oly Florendo, parish priest of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Makati City, will launch the book to mark the success of the devotion to the Philippines from the grace of the mid-80s and features stories of visionaries, the Mercy apostolates established nationwide. The book is also the Archdiocese's contributions to the Roman Catholic Church and preparations for the first World Apostolic Congress on Mercy at Vatican City, Rome in Italy on April 2-6. The event will coincide with the Eucharistic celebration at 5 p.m. to be led by Most Jonathan D. Reyes, Spiritual Director of the Divine Mercy Shrine of the Philippines.

Need a way to show your appreciation?

Ayala Malls Cinemas
Privilege Pass

Get the Privilege Pass

Available at any Ayala Malls Cinemas ticketbooth

Resorts World Manila
the City of Makati

altar BOYZ
THE AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL COMEDY

Directed by Chari Arespacochaga
Choreographed by Jamie Zamora

April 4 - 27, 2008

Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3
Rockwell Power Plant, Legaspi St., Makati City

For inquiries please call
8870710 or 8819999

Ticketworld

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quaco

France, UK vow new 'entente amicale'

FULLY DRESSED: Sarkozy's ex-fiancée Carla Bruni-Sarkozy in London. British duchess Camilla (left) and model Naomi Campbell (right) flank Sarkozy during the leaders' visit. AP

LONDON—FRANCE AND BRITAIN VOWED THURSDAY TO turn their "entente cordiale" into an "entente amicale," working together on issues from tackling the global credit crunch to fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, speaking at a Franco-British summit in London, agreed to hold more regular meetings to coordinate policy.

"We will turn the 'entente cordiale' into the 'entente amicale'," said Brown, referring to the 104-year-old "cordial understanding" that has been renewed on several years, notably over Britain's particip[ation] in the 2003 Iraq war.

"We believe that working together France and Britain can be an even greater force for good," he added as Sarkozy looked on, saying it could even become an "economic francobritish"—a wonderful relationship.

At the joint [illegible] English Premier League side Arsenal's north London stadium [illegible] Sarkozy insisted his intention to propose boosting French troop levels at a Nato summit next week.

On Tibet, the French leader said he reserved the right to boycott the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing this August, saying he would consult with other European Union leaders before making any decision.

Brown, whose country hosts the 2012 games in London, said he would be attending the opening ceremony and added that a boycott.

On economic issues, the pair—both former finance ministers—called for greater transparency on the financial markets, urging banks to make "full and prompt disclosure" about write-downs in the wake of the credit crunch.

Further talks were revealed with the United States and other countries to promote greater financial stability. They added, calling for the International Monetary Fund to be reformed to help identify and head off potential problems.

[illegible] actions was part of a wider call for international institutions such as the G8 and UN Security Council to be opened to reflect new global realities, particularly the rise of emerging economic powers like China and India.

There were renewed commitments on economic development, including a tie-up between London, State and Industrial Infrastructure to give 16 million African children internet boost by the time of the 2012 World Cup in South Africa.

And the two countries vowed to tighten up immigration controls at Channel ports—a major bone of contention on both sides of the water with illegal immigrants using France as a [illegible] stepping-off points for Britain.

But there was no specific detail on French support for a new generation of nuclear power stations in Britain, which London argues is necessary to reduce future supplies and uncertainty about oil and gas provision. AFP

22-year-old supplied dud ammo in Afghan conflict

WASHINGTON—A FLORIDA company hired by the Pentagon to supply ammunition to Afghan soldiers was the troops' Chinese gun ran ladden that went more than 90 years old the US military told US documents obtained by Reuters.

The US Army has suspended the contracts AEY Inc. of Miami Beach, from all federal contracting work. The US government also has started an investigation into its privately held AEY, its president and the ammunition contract.

According to Army documents, AEY and its president, Efraim Diveroli, 22, appear to have knowingly misled the military when they said last year the ammunition supplied was manufactured in Hungary between 1962 and 1963.

"In fact the majority of the ammunition was manufactured in the People's Republic of China between 1961 and 1973," the Army legal division's agency told Diveroli in a letter on Tuesday notifying him of AEY's suspension from federal contracts.

If true, AEY would have violated US law that prohibits the importation of munitions from the former military component.

The suspension is temporary, pending the outcome of the investigation.

Contacted at his Miami Beach office by phone, Diveroli told Reuters, "I'm not making any comments. I have nothing to say. I mean, you can say so another."

Asked if his lawyer would be making any statement on the story, he said, "I don't believe he will be."

The contract suspension came amid investigation by The New York Times, which found tens of millions of cartridges supplied by AEY under a $300 million federal contract were manufactured in China.

The newspaper on Thursday also said AEY worked with a company on a US list of groups suspected of illegal arms trafficking. Reuters

LIST MAKER

Peter Mark Roget is shown in a 1867 photograph. A new book, "The Man Who Made Lists," by author Joanna Kavenna, details the life and work of Roget who devised and published "Roget's Thesaurus" in 1852. Kavenna's book tells of how the 19th century British scientist made this eccentric and crowded conception his all-consuming [illegible] while [illegible] his career but [illegible] his marriage and [illegible] his children. The biography says making the list saved Roget's life by keeping him from succumbing to the depression and misery of those around him. AFP

Ramos-Horta: UN could have caught men who shot me

GENEVA, Switzerland—East Timor's president assured the UN on Friday of cooperating in opportunity to catch the army mutineers who shot him but recently, and described looking into the eyes of his would-be assassin just before the ugly attack.

Australian officials on Friday strongly defended the response of their forces to the UN peacekeeping contingent in East Timor, saying their President Jose Ramos-Horta was so wounded in the shooting that he was in no shape to make objective judgments at the time.

Ramos-Horta is recovering in the Australian city of Darwin after [illegible] on Tuesday and Friday, Ramos-Horta testified, advising home from a morning bath and [illegible] into his car. [illegible]

"The gunmen was there hitting me in my gut and took aim at me," Ramos-Horta said, giving his most detailed public account of the shooting. "I just look to [illegible] time I [illegible] around to run. That's why he didn't hit me on my chest in the left side, he hit me on the back on the right side."

Ramos-Horta earlier identified the man who shot him as Marcelo Caetano, a rebel soldier whom he had met before.

"I looked at his eyes—eye [illegible]—and he was determined to fire. [illegible] only I turned and run and I was hit," Ramos-Horta said.

Ramos-Horta said being shot was akin to [illegible] on the street outside his compound, and said he was told that UN police obstructed people [illegible] to rescue him.

"I was speaking for my ambulance," he said. "My Gang—stood on Thursday and Friday, Ramos-Horta testified, advising home from a morning bath and [illegible] into his car. [illegible]

"The gunmen was there hitting me in my gut and took aim at me," Ramos-Horta said, giving his most detailed public account of the shooting. "I just look to [illegible] time I [illegible] around to run. That's why he didn't hit me on my chest in the left side, he hit me on the back on the right side."

Ramos-Horta earlier identified the man who shot him as Marcelo Caetano, a rebel soldier whom he had met before.

"I looked at his eyes—eye [illegible]—and he was determined to fire. [illegible] only I turned and run and I was hit," Ramos-Horta said.

Ramos-Horta said being shot was akin to [illegible] on the street outside his compound, and said he was told that UN police obstructed people [illegible] to rescue him.

"I was speaking for my ambulance," he said. "My Gang—stood on Thursday and Friday, Ramos-Horta testified, advising home from a morning bath and [illegible] into his car. [illegible]

Clinton, Obama vow Democrats will unite despite bitter campaign

WASHINGTON—BOTH HILLARY Clinton and Barack Obama vowed Thursday the Democratic Party would find its wounds, whatever wins their way: White House race, and would unite to thwart Republican John McCain.

The former rivals spoke up amid mounting concern among party leaders that the bloody contested battle would scupper a golden chance to grab back the White House race, and would unite to thwart Republican John McCain.

The former rivals spoke up amid mounting concern among party leaders that the bloody contested battle would scupper a golden chance to grab back the White House race, and would unite to thwart Republican John McCain.

Obama was asked while campaigning in North Carolina what she would say to Democrats who might consider voting for McCain, if their preferred candidate loses in the nominee party vote.

"Please think through this decision," Clinton said. "It is not a vote decision for yourself or your state, it's

"I intend to do everything I can to make sure we have a unified Democratic party ... when this contest is over and we have a nominee, we're going to close ranks, we're going to be united."

Obama, speaking to ABC News, also attempted to reassure top party officials who fear a nightmare scenario of a fractured Democratic Party pitting the election to the Republicans, despite President George W. Bush's unpopularity.

But he admitted, whichever camp loses the race, it will still be two to three lend to pledged delegates and the popular vote, will feel terrible.

"It's tough ... we have been campaigning now for a long time. We have got very ardent supporters on both sides.

"I don't think we are that long-term. I think about term, there is going to be work to do for the nominee to bring the party back together again.

"I think what's going to happen is that there are going to be some bruised feelings, whoever the nominee is."

"We are going to have to come together and remind ourselves that there is a heck of a lot bigger differences between either Senator Clinton or myself, and John McCain," Obama said. AFP

French 'virgin-hunting' couple on trial for 7 murders

CHEVILLY-LA-MEDITERRE, FRANCE—A self-confessed French serial killer returned on Thursday to being "devoid of human emotion" as he went on trial with his wife for the rape and murder of seven girls and young women.

The parents of the victims allegedly murdered by Michel Fourniret are opposite the accused and his wife Monique Olivier and heard how the final agreed to their virgins for himself to killed her first husband.

Fourniret, 65, and Olivier, 59, on with forced Jacob behind bullet-proof glass as court officials read out a litany of horrific crimes that began in 1987 and only ended in 2003 when a 12-year-old Belgian girl managed to escape his clutches and alert the police.

The girl told Belgian investigators that Fourniret had boasted to her that he was "more than" Marc Dutroux, Belgium's most notorious criminal sentenced to life in jail in 2006 for child kidnapping, rapes and murders.

Fourniret, dubbed the "Ogre of the Ardennes," began his trial by holding up for the presiding judge a piece of paper that said, "My lips are sealed if there is no closed door hearing."

He then gave Judge Gilles Leupin a sealed document and with a shrug.

"This is an explanation I intended to read out to explain why I am boycotting the court," he said.

In the meandering note, a copy of which AFP later obtained from his lawyers, Fourniret said he would not cooperate with the trial because it would be a useless move.

But the impassioned former electrician, on Thursday dressed in a blue jumper and an open-necked shirt, admitted to the chronicle that he was "a bad person devoid of human emotion."

He played down Olivier's role in his crimes, saying she "believes the odious acts of a courageous" without any struggles, who led her into "a perverse game."

He also swore that he frequently beat Olivier.

Fourniret is accused of the rape and murder of six young women or teenage girls in France and one in Belgium. He refused to let victims' families sit in the court.

Barred from main road, Palestinians fear two-tiered system

By Ethan Bronner

BEIT AWA, WEST BANK—ALI ABU SAFIA, mayor of this Palestinian village, knows his car up once predicted road. Bare-knuckled, finding one is still blocked by huge concrete chunks placed there by the Israeli army. On a clear day, highway 356 can be seen from his front window.

"They took our land to build this road, and now we can't even use it," Abu Safia says bitterly, pointing to the highway with one hand as he fishes with the other. "Israel says it is because of security. But it's politics."

The object of Abu Safia's contempt—Highway 443, a major access road in Jerusalem—has become an special significance in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For the first time, the Supreme Court, sitting in an interim decision, has accepted the idea of separate roads for Palestinians in the occupied areas.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel told the court that what was happening on the highway could be the start of legal apartheid in the West Bank.

Both largely on private Palestinian land, the road was first challenged in the Supreme Court in the early 1990s. The petition, in a landmark ruling, permitted it to be built because the army said its primary function was to serve the local Palestinians, not Israeli commuters. In recent years, as the scale of terror shooting and several drive-by shootings, Israel has blocked Palestinians' access to the road.

This month's decision calls on the army to give a progress report in six months on its efforts to build separate roads and to take other steps to ensure peaceful Palestinians for being banned from the road. It is the acceptance of the idea of separate road systems that has engendered controversy.

"There is already a separate legal system in the territories for Israelis and Palestinians," said Jessie Sibbels, who argued the case for the civil rights association on behalf of six Palestinian villages. "With the approval of separate roads, it's become a widespread policy, then the word for it will be 'apartheid.'"

Many Israelis and their supporters reject the term, with its implication of racial violence.

"The basis of separation is not ethnic [in Israel]. Arabs and Jews] are citizens with Israeli ID cards and use the road," argues Dore Gold, president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, a conservative research organization. "The basis of the separation is to keep out of sensitive areas people living in chaotic areas." NYT

Laptop and Internet for bonding with loved ones abroad!

Asus Eee PC

+ Internet +

= ₱1,495/month*

As low as

*For credit card payment. As low as ₱1,614/month when charged to bill, with ₱119.00 downpayment upon application. For 24 months.

Magsubscribe na! Pumunta sa pinakamalapit na Globelines Payments & Services Center o tumawag sa (02) 919-8888 for Luzon, or (032) 410-8888 for VisMin.

Globe

BROADBAND

Asus Eee PC 4G SURF Specifications:
7" Display • Linux Operating System • Icon-based user interface • 512MB memory • 16GB SSD • Good quality sound • Hi-Definition audio stereo speaker and microphone • 2.8-3.5 hours battery life depending on actual operation and configuration • Weight is 0.92 kg

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Reach: Diaz can give Pacman problems /A25

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Delos

Above 29, 8:00 PM
GO

Coke tests Chot-TNT union today

PBA Fiesta Cup under way

By Manny R. Castillo

FOR NATIONAL COACH CHOT REYES, THIS TEAM SEEMS THE PERFECT VEHICLE for a comeback. And for Talk 'N Text the chance to redeem itself starts now.

The Phone Pals, considered as underdogs in the last PBA conference, start their Fiesta Cup campaign against arch-rival Coca-Cola today at the venue-sizzling rival turned catholic at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is 4:30 p.m.

Defending champion Talk 'N Text will be out to show that the talented Phone Pals will respond to such a talented coach like Reyes and finally play to its true potential.

Talk 'N Text was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Philippine Cup after dealing away cornerstones Ato Ibañez to the Tigers.

Tenderness reportedly tormented the inside and it served as his motivational tool in helping the Tigers beat out the Phone Pals in the Philippine Cup quarterfinals.

And then came Reyes, a winning dilemma who has had success with Purefoods and Coca-Cola before handing the motivated reins program to his ex-comeback.

The possible comeback was the Phone Pals lacked the drive to succeed. But with Reyes, this team is expected to try.

"I don't want to make any predictions other than we will be the hardest working team out there," Reyes said.

Aaron Melditon, the Talk 'N Text import, will be tested by two outlanders aside from Coca-Cola, a contention the Tigers entered for ending up sixth in the Philippine Cup eliminations.

Jayson Ubial, a 6-foot-10 bouncer, and Calvin Cepe will join Ibañez, Alex Cabagnot and Jolas Adigo in spearheading the Tigers.

Aside from Melditon, the Phone Pals still be relying on Anthony Washington, Jimi-Jimi Miranda, Mac Cardona and Jimmy Alapag.

TJMT Bonilla is beam the result of landing heavily on the ramp during the elimination rounds race at the Caesar Water Sports Complex in Pila, Camarines Sur. EDDY SEVILLO

Gritty Alcantara downs Aussie, barges into Lancer s'finals

/ A24

ProGear Golf
493 Upper Lovell, Cubao-Ortigas, Aguinaldo Center, Makati City 1201
New arrivals of used Golf Clubs from Japan & U.S.A.

Wakeboard stars grab spotlight at Nationals

By Jerome M. Pico

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—FAMILIAR NAMES returned to the fore in reigning Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals yesterday at the Caesar Watersports Complex here.

Combining a show act and a variety of scoring tricks, defending champion Jessmon De Asis of the Alhambra brothers Alfred and Glen stamped his class in the semifinals with a day-high 98.43 points to lead the finalists in the Masters category.

Arthur Ang, the Filipino rider ranked 11th in the two-bit amateur category, will also push his bid for a third straight championship in the Men's Professional division.

"I'm feeling tense," admitted the 32-year-old Kingcaber Holdings dynamo secured with 59 points to Don Bonica, last year's runner-up who scored 74.67.

Rene Imperial, meanwhile, moved down to finishing a second straight crown in the men's division after advancing to the 4th round with 59.33 points.

Also returning for another shot at the title are the Villalobos brothers with 12-year-old Luigi riding the Greene semifinals with 61.33 and 17-year-old John dominating the junior men's class.

Donnie Ordoñez is also looked poised to keep the Open Wakeskate crown with a score of 79.33 points in the semifinals.

HANGBOARD /A24

The first Honda Safety Caravan was successfully held last March 8, 2008 participated by almost 1000 Honda motorcycle riders from different parts of Metro Manila, converging point was at the Sucat Grand Stand. Lovely Honda Safety Caravan is geared towards increasing awareness among all road users about the importance of road safety. To emphasize and highlight the campaign, all riders were joined with Safety Promotion slogans and distributed safety reminder stickers to other road users.

Mr. Kazuhiko Maeda, President & Gen. Manager of Honda Philippines, Inc. together with Asst Secretary of Land Transportation Office, Hon. Atanio Suansing, Mr. Arvin Dela Paz, Manager of Honda Safety Driving Center (HSDC), and Mr. Jay Ramos, City Administrator of Manila signed a manifesto on Safety Riding where they agreed to the establishment of a safe road system throughout the country through active promotion of programs that will modernize road safety training not only for motorcycle riders but for other road users as well. Honda Philippines Inc. in coordination with various Honda dealers nationwide will continue to promote road safety as part of its commitment to the development of motorcycle culture in the Philippines.

At Cathedral Heights
your taste defines the many levels of living
Now Officially Completed, and Formally Turned Over To Property Management
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Exclusive & elegant, split-level architecture. In the heart of New Manila.
OPEN HOUSE:
Saturday, March 29!
ANOTHER GUARANTEED DELIVERY BY

Harbour five guns for No. 7 vs Pharex

STANDINGS	W	L
Harbour Five	2	0
Pharex	2	0
Hapee Kings	1	1
Jungold Interclub	1	1
Sacrifice	1	1
Bilog Chiller	0	2
Hapee Tofu	0	2
Bebe Gil	0	2

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Pharex
4 p.m.—Hapee Tofu vs Hapee Kings

PHAREX WILL TRY TO STOP THE PH-Harbour train that is Harbour Centre when the two leading teams begin in the Liponcan Amino Sports Cup today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Nasugbu Five are gunning for a seventh straight victory against the second-running Medics (5-2) at 2 p.m. as they pursue a record five straight championships.

Reserve Dale Ochea (1-1-5) returns to make it two in a row against Nasuc Shooz (2-2) in the second game at 4 o'clock.

Gunging Scots in 40-69 rout of Hapee Soothpaste early this week, Harbour should easily handle Pharex, and coach Jorge Uichoe is confident that another player from his deep bench will provide the offensive spark for Batang Five.

"We'll just play our usual game," said Gallent. "They are in high spirits right now, especially after our big win over Hapee."

Harbour, which is set to represent the country in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association Club championship in Jakarta next week, paraded a complete offensive gem in Jonathon Fernandez against the Lyceum Pirates (0-2).

Fernandez fired a personal best this season of 22 points, making six of his nine three-point attempts.

Jason Castro and TY Tang also banked him up from the backcourt, making 11 and 10 points, respectively to make life miserable for Hapee.

The Medics will again host on its usual gunners—Francis Allera, Bonnie Bugtas, Bonnie Medina, Elmer Ortiz, Jun Alfad and rising playmaker Jose Villamin.

Toyota Otis traded its five-game losing streak with a 92-86 win over San Mig Coffee win last Tuesday.

Aliaza Anthony Reyes

PCU's 'NC' fate known next month

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NCAA POLICY BOARD YESTERDAY deferred its decision on the fate of beleaguered Philippine Christian University but declared it has reached a consensus to reformulate rules regarding the use of foreign players like Nigerian sensation Sam Ekwe of San Beda.

Outgoing NCAA president Hermon E. Pidlaoan of Jose Rizal University said the board will meet on April 18 to come up with a decision whether to extend PCU's one-year suspension or to enlist the team for the 84th season.

"There is still something we have to validate and some documents we intend to study more about it," said Pidlaoan. "There's this lengthy evaluation because everything has to be fair."

PCU was found to have committed irregularity in fielding players in their junior basketball team during the 2006 season. Evidences submitted late last year also showed that the Dasmariñas, Cavite school has been guilty of the same offense but with different players involved.

Meanwhile, the league's management committee headed by JRU's Ariel Segovia said that, starting this season, the league will limit each team to just two foreign players with only one of them allowed to play at a time.

Alcantara ousts Aussie

Lone Filipino survivor advances to Lancer s'finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FRANCIS GARY ALCANTARA RIDEL bled the big-serving Mark Verryth of Australia, 7-5, 6-3, yesterday to reach the semifinals of the 19th Hinckelchi Lancer International junior tennis championships at the Khalifa International Tennis Center.

The 5-foot-7, 16-year-old Filipino came up with a decisive break from 15-40 to take a 6-5 lead in the first set and the third ranked 6-3 Australian became so frustrated he dropped the next seven games basically without a fight.

"Medyo ang serve niya pero pareho lang ako [the last a strong serve but I recovered patience]," said the gutsy Alcantara after the victory that took only one hour and 26 minutes to complete. "But on long rallies[ends for 30 was a good thing] I was able to return his shots."

Alcantara, who eliminated eighth seed Matthew James of Britain on Thursday, forged a Final Four with another top-ranked foe today in second seed Ilonit Pini of Slovenia, who survived the fourth-seeded Japanese Hiroki Kondo, 6-4, 7-5.

Top seed Andrew Thomas of Australia and fourth-ranked Chu Hoang Jae-ol Korea will clash in other semifinal pairing.

Thomas breezed out Russian seventh seed Alexander Sokhov, 6-4, 6-3, while Jae-ol survived Taiwan's Chen Ju-Yi Wachtmeisterwang, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

Verryth fired two booming aces to take that 40-15 lead in the 12th game of the first set against Alcantara, who was eliminated in the first round of the same tournament last year.

But the determined youngster from Cagayan de Oro won the next two points in huge dense, then eventually took the game for a 6-5 lead after another deuce.

Verryth showed his disappointment after Alcantara held Lancer to win the first set and the Filipino bounced through the next set where he viewed the crowd cattle-a between the large screaming crowd for match points.

Top girls' seed Singaporean Loraine Graham easily made it to the semifinals with a 6-0, 6-3 dubbing of Uzbekistan's Alexandra Kolomeitseko.

She will now take on fourth seed Chang Jiyan of Hong Kong, who came back from a disastrous first set to fashion out a 0-6, 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Stella Jane Ann of Hungary.

Hungary's Timea Babos, seeded 11th, had an easy path to the semis after a surprise exit of second seed Elena Chernyakova, 6-3, 6-4. She will face 12th seed Madelyn Rabenek who ousted Ratnapat Saramuan, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

FRANCH Cauap Alcantara gets on top of Australia's Mark Verryth early to complete a straight sets win.

Wakeboard stars grab ...

From page A13

A total of 39 riders are seeing action in 10 divisions of the sport that combines skills in surfing, water skiing and snow boarding.

An impressive roster of riders are judging the competition. They include World Wakeboarding Association executive director Shawn Barry, three-time world champion Rowland Hinterberger of Germany, Britain's 2007 King of the Cable Christian Koester, six-time Austrian champion Daniel Fee, Peruvian Olympian Jorge Vargas, Cuong Jeong Lee of Vietnam, 2007 Alliance Wakeboarding of the Year Nicholas Taylor and two-time International Champion Gapic Pakanic of Serbia.

In the women's category, Serena Lopez found a tough challenger in Andrea Ivella in her bid for a back-to-back title in the Open division.

Lopez could only muster a second best 51.40 points in the semifinals, which Ivella dominated with 66.

Ms. Jaselo Felisa Ermita stayed on course for a second junior crown with 82.67 points, while Kathleen Joyce Ramby looked threatened in the girls classifier posting 76.67.

SPORTSWATCH

Barcelther 2008 kicks off

MANILA (MAY) 29 FREE LIBRELL LEAG the opening rites of Barcelther 2008 today at Bayuah, Roxas Boulevard in front of the Rizal Sulaiman Park.

Organized by the Manila Broadcasting Company, City of Manila and the Philippine Coast Guard, the two-day event will be highlighted by a series competitive stunts and formula categories.

Expected to see action are boaters from La Union, Quezon, Bataan, Zambales, Cavite, Roxas City, Batanes, Batangas, Albay, Iloilo City, Pangasinan, Bicol City, Occidental Mindoro, Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte and the National Capital Region.

Landeygruppen show today

DUAL EVENTS SLATED FOR THE 11TH SIGMA Landeygruppe Geiger Show to-day at the Greenhills Ayala Boulevard Country Club, Wack-Wack in Mandaluyong.

Organized by the Southern Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association, the event will showcase the obedience, agility, temperament and endurance of the German Shepherd breed which will be scrutinized by Herr Ismael Kokomo from Germany.

Some 120 exhibitors have registered with both German imports and locally bred pedigreeds.

"We will give the German imports a tough challenge," LSGSDA director Poet Oropesa said. "The Philippine-born contenders have trained for this event."

The two competitive will start at 9 a.m., while the junior intermediates and open classes kick off at 2, right after the 1 p.m. 111-kilometer Shepherd exhibition.

70 fights in SJC 4-cocker

COCKFIGHT CHAMPIONS WISH PAM-pangga Delacruz, Tarlac, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Metro Manila-bred cocks for test to-day via the St. Michael Gamefowl 4-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

The 70-fight program, hosted by Bay Layag of Pampanga and supported by Sagupan Corporation 3000, offers a guaranteed prize of more than P100,000.

Meanwhile, another cockfest co-hosted by the venue on Monday with the Ariel and Mormar 4-Cock Derby.

Some 120 entries have already confirmed for the 100-fight derby, according to hosts Ariel Sarmiento and Mormar Salvaga.

AGE tops Jungolf Interclub with big windup

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—JOHN JOEL Abston capped a last-day charge by Ayala Greenfield Estates with a three-under-par 69 as the host squad raked 1000 stars 1 of the Samsung Jungolf Interclub golf championships pulling away from Carabao Country.

Edwin D'Reyes and Efraim Legaspi provided the much-needed backup to Abston with rounds of 74 and 80, respectively, as AGE posted its low total in three days of 222 for a 678 aggregate.

John Bey de Perez's 111 did not count for Ayala Greenfield.

Iwan D'Abston-Ong Jae-min and Wales Segaral failed to deliver for Orchard which scored 223 for the day and wound up runner-up two strokes behind at 697.

The trio of Tim Cruz, Jeff Cruz and Jigger Cruz got a 74 from Johnn Carlos but managed only a 232 and placed third at 693.

Manila Southwoods checked in fourth on 695, followed by Eagle Ridge placed 1699, Valley (704), the two Apostolic teams (both on 720), Club Intramuros (736) and Mahang (746).

Club Intramuros wreaked to overhaul Jungold victories in the lower division, beating Agoncillo by 16 in Division 2 and Valley by 27 in Division 3.

Bienville Arvesú (86), Kenan Jabonete (81) and Rupert Enriquez (84) and Justin Quilban (87) made up the winning Intramuros 2, while Chino Reyes (88), Nicolai Abelar (94), Alex Delfin Yenze (102) and Alfredo Pagos (104) comprised the Division 3 champions.

While Noe could not defend Abston's charge to win here! Class A by four, Sunshine Barsapol scored an upset in the girls' class by tearing back 107 Ladies Open titlist Chiden Ikeda by five with a 171-229.

Mauz and Mia Legaspi pulled off a winning sister-act by topping Class B and Class D, respectively, with Kevin Paul Orillos and Rupert Enriquez rolling both divisions in the boys' side.

Ramon Julian and Lee Ji-Ayeon took the Class C trophies, Ryan Hernandez and Chino Reyes shared the Class E awards and Angelo Sidhortiza and Bernice Dilmore Ikeda up the Class F winners.

CARLOS Ramon shows his cropped-up Lancer in another victory.

RP Hillclimb series: Still no catching Anton

DEFENDING CHAMPION CARlo Anton of Mitsubishi-Pilsh Young MP Turbo captured the Group 4 crown and sparked a big show by the Baguio team in the first round of the Philippine Hillclimb Championship recently in Nasugbu Batangas.

Anton posted the day's best time of 2 minutes 23.07 seconds in dominating the Group 4 event with his Impco teammates, Allie Concepcion, Dennis Anyong and Jessy Ortiz, responding with strong finishes in other classes.

Carlo Garcia, in an Evolution 6, came in second behind Anton and Mark Young Racing's Vin Ivanca placed third.

Concepcion and Anyong finished second and third, respectively, in Group 3 while Ortiz settled for second in the Group 2 division behind Lance Gonzales.

After the win, Anton flew to Guam on the invitation of AC Motorsports to show what the 2008 Lexus IS300F can do. AC Motorsports was Anton's sponsor when he raced in the United States circuit back in 2006.

"The car was a beast, it's a 3-liter, 420-horsepower, 8-speed monster that can tear up any track you put it on and I would love to see it in the Hillclimb championship in the Philippines," said Anton, adding that he will probably use this same car for future races in Guam.

The Hillclimb series goes to Bataan this weekend.

Summit Point Invt'l tees off

THE ROSTER IS FULL AND ANYONE FROM among the 200 players can end up winning a brand new-car, anytime for P100,000 in cash when the inaugural Summit Point International tournament tees off today in Lipa City.

There will be two shotgun starters, the first at 6 a.m. and the second at 12 noon—each featuring 18 players who will tackle the 6,600-yard Summit Point course, also known as the World 18 Layout of Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Each participant will have three cracks at a Toyota Vios and a shot at 7,218 square meters lot in Sta. Lucia Realty subdivision as well as a total P100,000 prize at the four par 3s.

While the odds for a hole-in-one is a million-to-one, one of the 200 players will be driving home another Toyota Vios which will be teed off at the end of the 18-hole competition.

The ideal weather prevailing in Lipa City should be reason for the members and guests to enjoy the inaugural tournament.

Leading the armies are Bobbie Lucas and Jojo Lucas, who will be joined by amateur golfers from Realty and Sta. Lucia Realty which are also co-sponsoring the event.

Up for grabs are low net and low gross titles and the top awards in four different handicap classifications.

Organizers said the new rule on drivers requires players to use only conforming clubs.

Record field expected again in 'Bullang Bullang' stag derby

WITH 28 BASEBALL CLUBS RACING IT the National Federation of Gamecock Breeders, Inc. (NFGB) will launch the 2008 Bullang Bullang National Derby next month in cockpits all over the country.

The nationwide derby dangles a guaranteed prize of P6 million and promises to be another slambang affair. Last year's NFGB National Bullang Bullang derby drew an astonishing 1,360-entries.

The national eliminations, open to all weights, will be held at the Araneta Coliseum on Apr. 26 and Makati Coliseum on Apr. 30. All qualifiers will then compete in the champs-champs round on May 4 and 6 at the Araneta.

The NFGB executive committee pegged the derby fee at P15,000 and announced that at P5,500 weights can have 1.8 kgs to 2.25 kgs.

Those hailing four pound to the eliminations will share in the P1 million special prize, according to NFGB executive director Arnel Amamento. For inquiries, call 09281937220.

Top stag executive court members Apr 6 (Araneta Coliseum) Apr. 30 (Makati Coliseum) and Elimination Coliseum) Apr. 30 (Makati Coliseum) and Elimination Coliseum) Apr. 30 (Makati Coliseum) and Elimination

Roach: Diaz can give Pacman problems

DIAZ: World champion

FREDDIE ROACH FEELS LEFTY JAMES DIAZ WILL POSE SOME PROBLEMS for Manny Pacquiao if their proposed World Boxing Council lightweight title fight pushes through on June 28 in Las Vegas.

"Manny doesn't like to fight southpaws," Roach, Pacquiao's storied boxer-cum-trainer, said in an interview with Ron Borges of thesweetscience.com Wednesday.

"But when we fight a guy who's hittable, Manny does well. People tell me David Diaz is an easy fight. I am he's a world champion. The last time I looked they didn't give them belts easily."

Pacquiao, back in his hometown Gen. Santos City after storming the WBC super featherweight crown from Juan Manuel Marquez on March 15, is moving up in weight from 130 pounds and will challenge Diaz at 135 for the lightweight title.

And Roach believes his prized ward is headed for another bruising battle.

"It will be a tough fight," he said. "Diaz is aggressive. He's tough. He comes to win. And we don't know yet how moving up in weight will affect Manny.

"It was a little bit difficult for him making 130. He struggled but not tremendously so we have to look good at 135 and then see what's next."

Diaz's scrambling split decision victory over Ramon Montano in the chief support of Pacquiao-Marquez II put doubts on his ability to defend the title against the quick, who will be aiming for his fourth world title in four divisions.

In the same interview, Roach said he's relishing for a Pacquiao-Hatton bout at 140 lb.

"My dream fight for Manny is still Ricky Hatton at 140," Roach said. "That would be a great fight for Manny. Hatton's not that big a guy and with their styles it would be all action."

Cobbler Boy, Oscar De La Hoya's promotional company which has signed Hatton, "already told me they're going in a different direction with Hatton."

Roach, however, is hopeful that GBP sensation contender JJ Pacquiao beats Diaz.

The two-time winner of the year said the 140 lb fight is going to be a one-shot deal with Pacquiao returning to the lightweight division or even at a catchweight of 135 to give Marquez a rubber match.

"It's a fight Manny and I want," said Roach of a third clash with Marquez. "The body likes it entertaining. We want to settle this. I know Manny can fight a better fight. I don't think Marquez can."

Ray Lustre

2 more Britons may be tapped for Philippine team to AFC tilt

By Cedell P. Topas, Inquirer Herpes

HALL: Enviton

TWO ENGLAND-BASED PROSPECTS are keen on joining the Philippine national team that will see action in the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup in May.

Jenan Hall of English Premier League side Everton and goalkeeper Neal Etheridge, a reserve of London-based Fulham, are expected to be tapped by the Philippine Football Federation to beef up the national side in the May 13-25 tournament to be held in Bello City and Batangas Province town.

The Philippines will go up against Bhutan, Brunei and defending champion Tajikistan with the top team clinching a spot in the main tournament set in India in July.

Both the Glasgow-born Hall, who signed a one-year contract with Everton last year, and Etheridge, 18, have Filipino mothers, according to Philippine Football Federation president Mariel Martinez.

Martinez told the Inquirer that Everton has appointed coordinator to look after the interests of Hall, who is recovering from a knee injury.

The PFF head also expressed optimism that Fulham, a Premiere League squad, will loan out the 6-foot-3 Etheridge, whose parents are now processing his Philippine passport.

The other two Scots-based PF players are brothers Phil and James Younghusband, midfielder Chris Greenwell and defender Aaron Del Rosario.

National coach Norman Peppiles, who is overseeing the 30 players training in Barotac Nuevo, expressed optimism that the players can join the camp as soon as possible to make the team more cohesive in time for the tournament.

Phil Younghusband, will confer contract with London-based Chelsea, will join the national squad on April 27.

Thai stars, British qualifiers in RP Open

FORMER ASIAN TOUR NO. 1 THAworn Wiratchant will lead a strong contingent from Thailand while the three-time titlists who recently qualified for the Fed-Ex Open in July are also seeing action in the $300,000 Philippine Open set next week at the famed host course of Mimosa in Mandaluyong.

Thaworn, Asia's best in 2000, will be joined by young guns Chapchai Nirat and Prom Meesawat as they try to end Thailand's title drought to notch their nation's championship no. 4 in 11-0.

Also expected to attract attention are Malaysia's Danny Chia, Singapore's Lam Chih Ding and local ace Angelo Que, who recently finished three of the four slots up for grabs for Asian Tour regulars to the British Open this July in Royal Birkdale.

The Asian Tour and the National Golf Association of the Philippines, in cooperation with host venue Mimosa, will launch the 32nd edition of the RP Open with the "Meet the Player" press conference on April 1 in Mandaluyong City.

The country's top gun and defending champion Frankie Miñoza, Jose Dagoy, Jeremias Mendiola and other stars of the tour have been invited for the event.

Miñoza, who is gunning for a third Open title to win a tough tournament ahead of him.

"To play in your home Open is very hard, there's pressure so everyone expects you to win," he said.

The cream Open sponsors include Bogart, Philippine Airlines and Strawberry. The event is also backed by Corona Place Galleria, Johnnie Walker, 100 Plus, Stress and Hi-Chip.

Thais crush lady booters

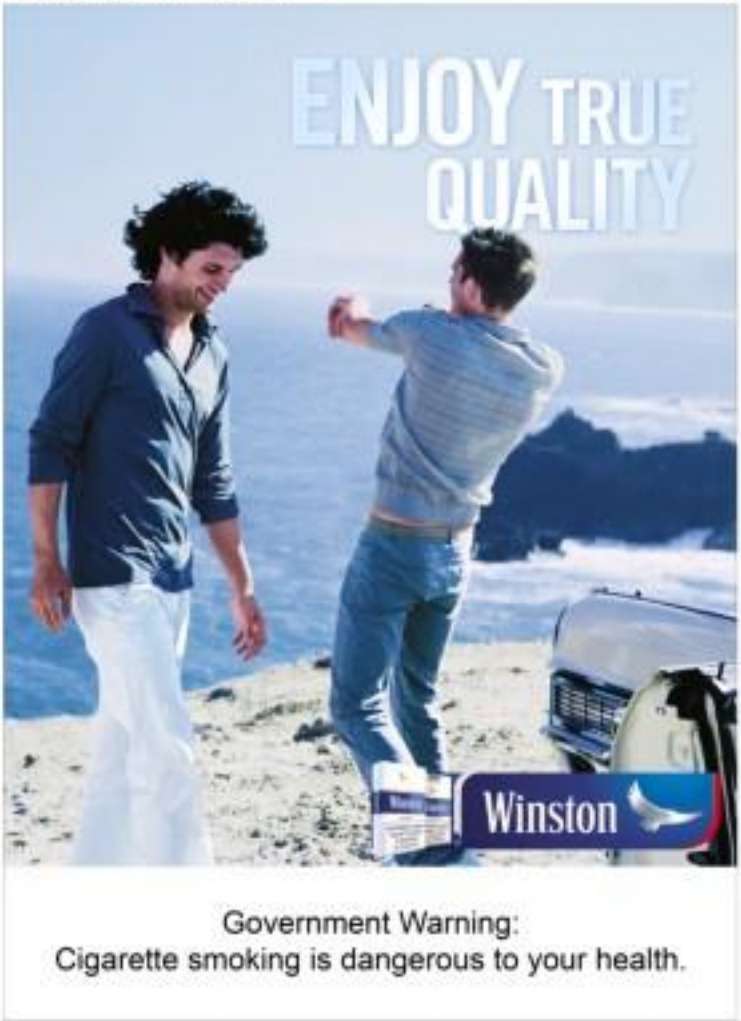
THE PHILIPPINE STAT IN THE AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers came to a disappointing end Wednesday night when the six-match outlines a 7-0 crushing from host Thailand at the Supachi The King's 80th Anniversary Stadium in Sukhothai Ratchathani.

It was the second straight loss for the 90-some footballers, who can salvage some pride with a victory against Malaysia in their last match at the Sukhothai University of Technology Stadium.

The nationals, who advanced to the second round of the qualifiers after beating Hong Kong last year, were beaten, 1-0, by South Korea on Monday.

South Korea, a 11-1 winner over Malaysia Wednesday, advanced to the semi-tournament along with Thailand, which drew a hat-trick from Nantana Siawsan to beat the Philippines.

Cedell P. Topas, Inquirer Herpes



SPORTS

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Boston	50	15	.769	—
Philadelphia	37	28	.569	12½
Toronto	36	30	.545	14
New Jersey	31	41	.431	23½
New York	20	51	.282	34
Southeast				
x-Orlando	46	21	.676	—
Washington	31	34	.521	8
Atlanta	31	40	.437	14
Charlotte	25	41	.379	18
Miami	13	59	.181	32½
Central				
x-Detroit	57	21	.731	—
Cleveland	50	27	.649	6
Indiana	29	47	.382	27½
Chicago	26	49	.347	30½
Milwaukee	25	50	.333	31½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest				
New Orleans	49	21	.700	—
Houston	39	33	.591	11
San Antonio	39	33	.591	11
Dallas	35	37	.535	15
Memphis	16	53	.232	31½
Northwest				
Utah	47	26	.653	—
Denver	44	28	.611	3
Portland	36	35	.507	10½
Minnesota	15	53	.221	29
Seattle	17	55	.236	30
Pacific				
L.A. Lakers	49	23	.681	—
Phoenix	47	24	.662	1½
Golden State	44	27	.620	4½
Sacramento	32	38	.457	16½
L.A. Clippers	21	50	.296	27½

x-clinched playoff spot, y-clinched division

Pistons bag division title

Nene return highlights Nuggets victory over Mavs

DETROIT—THE DEFENDING PISTONS clinched their fourth consecutive Central Division title on Thursday with a 95-69 win over the Miami Heat.

Rookie Arron Afflalo had a career-best 15 points and seven rebounds for the Pistons, who rallied from a one-point, second-quarter deficit against the last-place Heat.

"That's a credit to (the players)," Detroit coach Flip Saunders told reporters after locking up the division title.

"We've had a lot of games when we've probably lost games because we've played three (young) guys to give them some quality time and quality minutes and they had to scramble," Saunders added.

"But sometimes you have to sacrifice in order to step forward and that's what they've been able to do over the course of the season."

The Pistons, who have the second-best record in the NBA after the Boston Celtics, again played without guard Richard Hamilton (hip injury) but got key performances from Afflalo and regular Chauncey Billups, who finished with 23 points and 11 assists.

Rasheed Wallace also scored 13 points and reserve Jason Maxiell had 10 for the Pistons.

Villanueva, with the worst record in the league, was led by rookie reserve Blake Ahearn with 15 points.

NBA on TV (Basketball)
12:30 a.m.—Memphis Grizzlies vs. LA Lakers (Replay of 8:30 p.m.)
ASB Sports (PBA)
9:30 a.m.—Talk N Text vs. Alaska

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and sparked the defensive ace in the third quarter of Denver's 116-109 victory over visiting Dallas.

The Nuggets were three fourths straight and stayed within half a game of Golden State, which holds the eighth and last playoff berths in the Western Conference. They also closed within three games of Northwest Division leader Utah.

Denver's grand night was highlighted by forward Nene's return from the game with L 17 hits, marking his return to the court 2 1/2 months after surgery to remove a malignant testicular tumor, and just over a month after undergoing chemotherapy.

The Mavericks are 18-9 since acquiring Jason Kidd from New Jersey, but some of the wins were against teams with winning records. Six of their last 10 games are against teams above .500.

In Oakland, Caldwell-Jones, Golden State believed its playoff hopes by crushing an undermanned Portland, 111-91.

The Warriors' playoff hopes will hinge on their next two games, against the team directly below them—Dallas—and directly above them—Utah—in the playoff standings.

The Warriors led behind by 34 points in the first quarter before finding their outside. Golden State has rallied from double-digit deficits in 16 of its 44 wins this season.

Reuters, AP

Stern: No to Olympic boycott

NEW YORK—NATIONAL BASKETBALL Association commissioner David Stern said Thursday that he supports free expression for controversial matters and is no supporter of Olympic boycotts.

Responses to Stern's Beijing Olympics have been motivated by some European leaders given Chinese military actions in Tibet that have resulted in deaths.

But Stern noted with disdain the US-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the Soviet-led boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, the largest walkouts in Games history.

"The previous two Olympic boycotts did not succeed at anything except punishing athletes," Stern said.

NBA players, including China's Yao Ming and V. Baldwin, will play in the Olympic tournament, where the 12-squad of NBA stars will try to reclaim the gold medal after settling for bronze in 2004 in Athens.

AFP

WEST Virginia Mountaineer Darris Nichols (left) tries to maneuver past the defense of Xavier Musketeers Stanley Burrell.

MARCH MADNESS

Xavier, UCLA book Elite Eight tickets

PHOENIX—THE XAVIER MUSketeers used a pair of clutch three-pointers from SF Raymond to beat West Virginia, 75-71, in overtime on Thursday and join North Carolina, Louisville and UCLA in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

South Carolina, the top seed overall in the 65-team D1 college basketball championship, rallied to a 68-57 home win over fourth seed Washington State.

Louisville topped Tennessee 79-60 in the other game in Charlotte, North Carolina, and go on meet North Carolina on Saturday for the East Regional title.

UCLA, overcame Western Kentucky 88-78 to set up a Saturday meeting with Xavier for the West Regional championship.

Xavier, seeded third in the West, trailed West Virginia 74-72 in the five-minute extra period when Raymond hit a long jumper to give the Musketeers a 73-74 lead with 1:13 to play.

The seventh-seeded Mountaineers played tight defense to keep it a one-point game, with Wellington Davis connecting away a layup attempt with two seconds on the time clock.

Stanley Burrell had trouble finding a target to rebound to until he spotted Raymond on the opposite side of the floor. He heaved a perfect pass to the shooter, who sank the long jumper with 11.4 seconds left to put Xavier on top 74-74.

Reuters

Aussie sets record anew

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—TWICE in two nights Eamon Sullivan broke his own 200-free-old world record in the 50-meter freestyle Friday at the Australian swim championships and Olympic trials.

It was the fourth time in the past six weeks that the record has been broken after Frenchman Alain Bernard's record had stood for nearly eight years. The 22-year-old Sullivan has improved on it for the third time in that span.

Sullivan clocked a time of 21.26 seconds in the final Friday at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, where he had lowered the mark to 21.41 in the 50 free semifinals on Thursday.

That mark had broken Frenck's Alain Bernard time of 21.50 set at the European championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands last weekend. Bernard had broken Sullivan's previous mark of 21.56 set Feb. 17 at the Swiss Grands Wales Open in the same Sydney pool.

Sullivan said he next hopes drinking down the Beijing Olympics, where he'll go in as a gold medal favorite.

"Hopefully they'll be shaking in their boots," Sullivan said, smiling, of his upcoming opponents, including Bernard, in August in China.

AP

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Mariano

San Miguel delays beer unit's IPO

Offer price to be set April 24; listing on May 12

By Dixie L. Lucas

THE MUCH-AWAITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING (IPO) of San Miguel Corp.'s beer unit has been postponed by almost three weeks, according to a new schedule released by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

According to the bourse, the new tentative listing date for San Miguel Brewery Inc. (SMB) is now May 12, 2008. This is 20 days later than the April 22 listing date initially applied for by the beer maker.

Although no reason was given for the postponement, stock analysts believed that the company might be trying to dodge weak conditions in the local and international markets, which continue to be hounded by the fallout from the US subprime mortgage crisis.

According to the PSE notice, the SMB offer will raise for the company as much as P27.4 billion if the company prices its offer at the top end of the P19-P23.40 range.

At its lowest, SMB will still raise P7.1 billion from the IPO.

Almost 1.8 billion common shares—including previously for strong demand—are set to be sold as tranches. Of this, 77 million to 234.8 million will be new shares, while 593.4 million to 1.6 billion will be secondary shares currently owned by parent firm SMC.

After the IPO, the beer maker will have a market capitalization of as high as P230.5 billion—enough to propel it to the ranks of blue-chip listed firms—and making the stock significantly larger than its parent firm SMC, whose combined "A" and "B" shares are worth only P140.1 billion as of last Friday's closing prices.

Citigroup Global Markets

SAN MIGUEL BE

Gov't OKs plan on ₱40-B BSP capital infusion

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC managers have approved a financial sector stabilization program to raise P40 billion needed to recapitalize the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this year using a special purpose vehicle (SPV), the budget chief said yesterday.

"It's a 10-year program," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Development Forum in Clark Field, Pampanga.

"There's an agreement in principle. It's the mechanics that they're working on. From what I understand, the budget [department] will come up with a yearly appropriation starting 2009 and BSP can get its capital," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

Andaya said the stabilization program would be spearheaded by the Department of Finance and pave the way for the P40-billion capital infusion for the BSP.

Under the scheme, the SPV will float pe-

IN THIS ISSUE

PNOC taps DBP to study offer for Petron stake /B3

1,600 lose jobs as gov't trims bureaucratic fat /B4

CitsecOnline sees growth amid challenging market

By Dustin L. Lucas

PUBLICLY LISTED CITSECONline.com Inc. expects to encounter a more difficult environment for the stock-brokering business this year as financial markets continue to reel from the fallout of the US subprime mortgage crisis.

"The online broker said yesterday that it would focus more on maximizing potential revenues from its existing client base and shifting away from its old "product-centric" model.

In an interview, CitisecOnline president Cornelio Ilano said the brokerage firm is aimed more at its clients than any potentially "passive investors" to be more involved in the stock market.

The company has more than 5,000 registered clients—one of the biggest among local online brokers—who trade online, some as active and aggressive investors who buy and sell many times, and some as long-term investors who tend to trade less.

Since CitisecOnline starts mainly through trading commissions, Ilano explained that he wanted to make the passive investors more aware of the opportunities present in the local bourse as any given time.

We have the 80-20 rule where we generate 80 percent of our revenues from only 20 percent of our clients," he said. "At this point, we want to activate the other 80 percent of our client base."

Ilano said, however, that doing so would be challenging, given the high correlation between the stock market's performance and the level of interest exhibited by clients in trading.

"We expect 2008 to be a rather lean time for global financial markets as the US credit crunch is likely to keep investor sentiment subdued until there is better clarity over the course of the US economy," he said in his report during yesterday's stockholders' meeting.

"Although Asian economies, including the Philippines, should remain less affected by the US slowdown, overall investor risk appetite should remain muted for the stock market," Ilano said.

CitisecOnline will focus on providing better services to investors who are already in its stable because of the difficulty of attracting new clients.

"We also have Ilano even committed to focus on our individual customers' financial needs or goals regardless of age or income level by keeping them well-informed and well-equipped in take advantage of investment opportunities in the stock market," he said. "We believe by focusing our efforts on the needs of our customers, our company will in turn be successful and sustain its growth."

Last year, CitisecOnline's revenues grew by 289 percent, while expenses rose at a slower pace at only 88 percent, resulting in a net income growth of 308 percent for the period.

The company now has a market capitalization of P3.3 billion.

San Miguel ...

From page B1

Ltd. and ATR-Kimlng Capital Partners Inc. will act as the offer's joint global coordinators, bookrunners, lead managers and marketing agents.

On the local front, SMC Capital and Investment Corp. will join ATR-Kimlng as joint-domestic lead underwriters.

The domestic tranche for the IPO will start on April 11, while the international tranche will begin on April 15. The final offer price will be set on April 28.

Earlier this month, SMC president and COO Ramon Ang committed to proceed with the IPO despite weak market conditions.

"The parent company will use the IPO proceeds to fund its three core cash-cow capital-intensive businesses such as energy and mining.

Ang also said the move was also part of a broader plan to list all of the company's operating units on the exchange divided according to their lines of business.

"We are listing beer, packaging and cascading all the food sections can be listed," he said. "It'll open [up] companies will eventually be listed so that management will be more transparent."

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO):

CELEBRATING YEARS OF SHARING AND GIVING FROM A FILIPINO HEART

This year, VSO, the world's leading independent, international development organization that works through volunteers, celebrates 50 years of sharing skills and changing lives. Throughout most of these 50 years, VSO has been in the Philippines, collaborating with communities and tapping into the rich potential and spirit of solidarity of Filipinos.

The journey began in 1958 when VSO British volunteers worked together with local academic institutions, and later on, with communities and organizations. Since then, there have been more than 500 VSO volunteers sent to the Philippines to enhance the capabilities of communities to enable it to bring on-to-create services for the disabled and disadvantaged to participate in decisions that affect their lives as equal members of their communities.

Beyond this, VSO recognized that individual Filipinos could make a difference too. We invigorate the Filipino spirit of volunteerism by providing skilled professionals international volunteering opportunities that inspire sharing and growth. We also harness the power of local volunteer organizations to fuel national development through our national volunteering programme.

We share this 50th year milestone with hundreds of VSO Filipino and foreign volunteers and the many organizations all over the country that have collaborated with VSO 40 years ago until today. We thank our partners, donors and supporters who have and continued to journey with us in the fight to end poverty in the Philippines and everywhere.

It is the Filipinos' passion, expertise and endless optimism that will make many more years of collaboration – and celebration – possible for us at VSO.

With your support, VSO can scale up its work in the Philippines, particularly in communities and with organizations in Mindanao and Eastern Visayas. Visit www.vsofoundation.org.ph to find out how you too can help, or for other ways that you can be a part in sharing skills, changing lives.

www.vsofoundation.org.ph

Australian company ready to start mining in Masbate

By Ronald W. Dumalaog

AUSTRALIAN FIRM CGA MINING Ltd. said its management and those of its partners Filminrae Resources Corp. and Philippine Gold Processing and Refining Corp. have tapped Leighton Contractors for work that would lead to the start of open pit mining in Masbate.

CGA Mining said in a statement that Leighton, also of Australia, was expected to start next month on the construction of a tailings dam, which would be completed in August.

Based on CGA Mining's original timetable, open pit mining should start at the Masbate project in the second quarter of the year with the commissioning of the mine plant following in the fourth quarter.

At that point, gold production is targeted for the first quarter of 2009.

The company expects to produce 200,000 ounces of gold a year...as well as some silver—for the next eight years.

However, CGA Mining said it realized that to achieve this timeframe, "it will be necessary to advance the commencement of certain works and capital purchase commitments prior to a commitment to develop. Denial."

"To this end, the board has approved expenditure as work required to maintain the critical path of the construction schedule," the firm added.

The company has secured a $65-million financing facility for the Masbate gold project.

CGA Mining said Leighton would work under an alliance agreement that has been successfully used in several other mines.

"This alliance agreement is designed to maximize collective flexibility with all aspects of mining, total (un)quantity costs and provide the safest and lowest mining cost per ton," the firm explained.

Earlier this month, the Perth-based firm announced that recent drilling in its Masbate gold project has delivered a new high grade vein system adjacent to the Lilian North planned open pit.

The company said the new prospect was close to surface, with drilling results yielding 10.51 grams of gold per ton of material at a depth of 42 meters.

AKANE EXPRESS
Japanese Food Delivery Service
Japan Best Buys Now On Sale!!!
Call: 5298925,5260254,09178888248

PNOC taps DBP to study offer for Petron stake

By Abigail L. Ho

PUERTO PRINCESA (2nd, Palawan)—The government has named the Development Bank of the Philippines as its financial adviser with regard the Saudi Aramco Group's proposal to purchase Aramco Overseas Co.'s 40 percent stake in Petron Corp.

In an interview on the sidelines of PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp.'s Luzon Autophin Forum, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the PNOC board approved DBP's appointment in a meeting Thursday.

"We passed a resolution naming DBP as our financial adviser. We also had preliminary discussions on the scope of work. DBP will personally advise us on what options to take," he said in a briefing here.

PNOC had 60 days from March 22, when it received notice from Aramco of Saboteur's purchase offer, to exercise its right of first refusal.

In an earlier interview, Reyes said the government's employment of the services of a financial adviser for the deal did not mean that it would veer away from its privatization strategy.

Petron chair Nicasio Aquino had said that the oil firm had already had some informal discussions with Saboteur officials regarding the proposed buyout.

He said Petron's focus on petrochemicals was one of the factors that drew Saboteur, a $16.5-billion global asset management firm, to the company.

"We are glad to note that our strategic transformation program, which is based on our diversification into petrochemicals, is one of the main reasons why Saboteur offered to buy Aramco's shares," he said. "They will definitely support our further expansion into the petrochemicals business."

Gov't OKs plan ... From page B1

re-denominated bonds of P20 billion in two tranches backed by the government's written commitment to offer funds over the next 10 years.

SPT is trust administered by an entity duly licensed to perform trust functions under the General Banking Law and created for the purpose of, inter alia, a process in which assets, receivables or financial instruments are pooled and used as underlying instruments for marketable securities like bonds.

The government will sign a multi-year obligation authority to appropriate from its budget P4 billion a year for the next 10 years. The DOF will then appoint a third-party fund manager to handle the SPT and grow the money invested in liquidator the bonds when they mature.

The P40 billion represents the remaining used money out of the P50 billion that the government was obliged to pump into the SSP when the independent central bank was created in 1993.

The scheme will allow the SSP to immediately get the money this year while the rest of the government—which is targeting to balance its cash budget this year—will be stagged over a 10-year period.

From January to November last year, the SSP incurred net losses of P62.5 billion mainly due to foreign exchange losses that reached P63 billion. The bank central bank charged the losses against the capital accounts built over the years. From P206.0 billion as of end-2006, the BSP's capital accounts fell to P197.5 billion in the first 11 months of 2007.

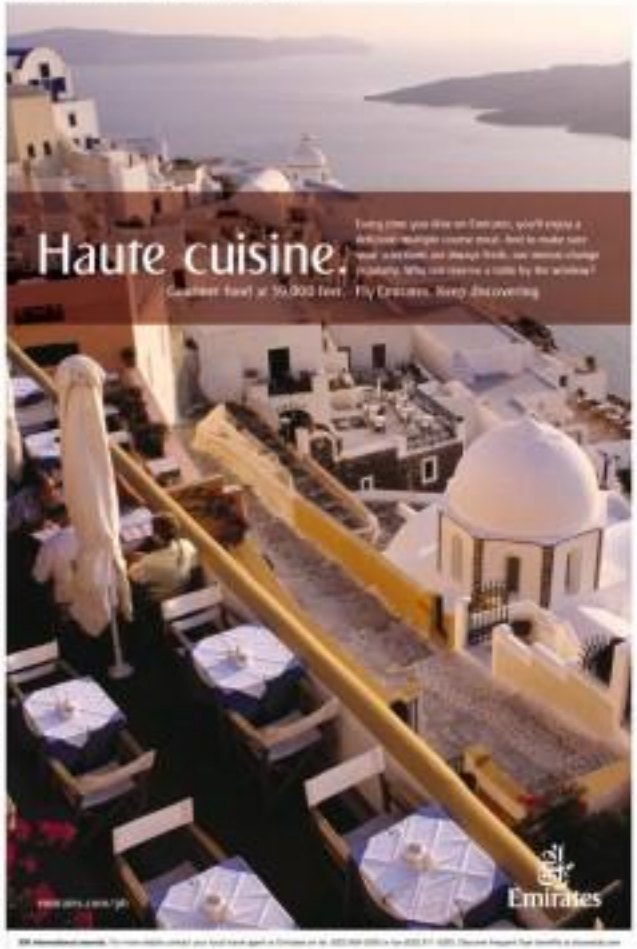
Stocks close 1% higher From page B1

blue chips, unexpectedly selling ends all the bad news," said Nestor Ajeda of DA Market Securities.

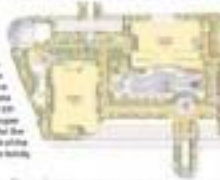
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's biggest company by market value, rose P70 to P3,000, its best level in two weeks.

Ayala Land Inc. led gainers in the listed property sector, rising 25 centavos to P11. Real Megaworld Corp. was up six centavos to P2.50.

Philex Mining Corp., the country's biggest gold and copper producer, advanced for the third straight day, adding 20 centavos to P6.00. AFP



Manhattan Garden City offers super-sized amenities



1,600 lose jobs as gov't trims bureaucratic fat

By Michelle V. Rafael

THE GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO trim the fat off a bloated bureaucracy is now in full swing, with 1,632 state employees recently being separated from their jobs, the Department of Budget and Management said.

The government is for her spent P169 million to cover benefits of the former public workers here, 30 state officials.

More government employees are expected to be separated from their jobs, said the DBM, as the Arroyo administration steps up its rationalization program.

The employees that would be separated from public service include those who voluntarily availed of the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) and the Optional Retirement Program (ORP), as well as those who were affected by the reorganization of their respective line agencies.

Under the government's rationalization program, mandated by Executive Order No. 366 issued in October 2004, all government entities in the executive branch are required to review their organizational charts and submit rationalization plans to the budget department.

The executive order aimed to streamline government agencies by eliminating redundant functions and programs, consolidating or merging agencies with similar functions, and abolishing vacant positions.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the rationalization program was aimed at improving the delivery of government services and making the bureaucracy more efficient.

"The rationalization program is not about cutting jobs. It is about making government more efficient and effective in the delivery of services to the people," Andaya said.

Those who were separated from their jobs received benefits under the ERIP and ORP, depending on their length of service in the government.

Those who availed of the ERIP received a lump sum equivalent to one month salary for every year of service, plus a cash gift of P10,000 and a clothing allowance of P5,000.

Those who availed of the OR

PROPERTY

Alex Cesar O. Mangaoang

Preventing fires
easier than containing them

By Tess R. Salazar

ALMOST EVERY DAY WE see or hear fire trucks, sirens screaming, rushing by our neighborhoods, destined for that dark ominous smoke billowing in the horizon. How often have we said to ourselves, "Poor people; I'd rather have my house burglarized than be razed by fire."

And then, one day, to our utter horror, the unthinkable happens. The fire trucks that pass you by on the road seem to be heading the same direction as you are, and that ominous black smoke billowing from the horizon seems so fearfully close to your own neighborhood. In fact, it is your neighborhood on fire. And the regrets, the "what ifs," now start flooding into your consciousness.

Prevention the key

Insurance Property cannot reimburse the often-enough. Fire is a real threat to your property, and it follows no deadline, and waits for no one. Once a fire starts, especially during dense hot summer days, it becomes extremely difficult to stop. Precautions, therefore, is the key.

It has been said that a house, in reality, is always theoretically fire prone. An enclosed indoor kitchen, for instance, contains the three elements to create fire: heat, fuel and oxygen. Thus, never let your children play in the kitchen, and always keep matches and lighters out of their reach.

Other, freaky electrical systems are the primary ignition of fires. What makes them especially more treacherous is the

PREVENTING fires

Manhattan Garden City
AT THE ARANETA CENTER

When leisure calls, follow your heart where it leads. To the one place where you forget all your cares. And where you escape to an extraordinary vacation experience any time. Manhattan Garden City. It's lush, it's serene and filled with exciting options for relaxation and recreation. It's the ultimate urban hideaway. Here, your hectic schedule simply melts away—so you can live to leave fun. At the fourth level pavilion deck, revitalize your body with the finest sports and fitness facilities. Unwind until greenery, lush trees and colorful flowers. When the sun sets, head back to the comfort of your world-class, lit is an executive studio or a four-bedroom suite. And tomorrow, look forward to another rejuvenating holiday.

At Manhattan Garden City, there's a world of never-ending pleasure just waiting for you.

Manhattan Garden City offers you more than 30 ways to enjoy yourself all year round!

- 50-meter lap pool
- Shallow water fun bath
- Bubble pool
- Wading pool
- Water play area
- Jacuzzi
- Sauna spa
- Outdoor spa
- Pool bar with cabanas
- Landscaped sun deck
- Basketball/tennis court with floodlights
- Gymnasium
- Aerobics/dance studio
- Table tennis
- Billiards
- Fitness stations
- Children's play area
- Cooking stall
- Tai chi area
- Grilling grotto
- Jogging path
- Basketball/tennis court
- Volleyball court
- Futsal/jogging rails
- Outdoor seating pavilions
- Picnic area and barbecue pit
- Garden yard
- Sitting nook
- Toilets
- Open yard pool
- Shaded tree garden patio
- Private function area
- Indoor game room

AS LOW AS ₱8,000 MONTH FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS

NO DOWN PAYMENT INTEREST FOR 5 YEARS

Visit our SHOWROOMS at:
3rd Level Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
2nd Level Main Mall, North Wing/side, SM Mall of Asia
Lower Ground Floor, SM San Lazaro, Manila

For more details,
call 810-3333 or 913-0234

www.pagcorsavings.com

www.pagcorproperties.com

Exclusive Marketing Agents

Philippine Realty & Development Corporation

Developer

Pagcor Leisure and Entertainment, Inc.

www.mgmgrandmanila.com

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Lito Cesar D. Pascual Jr.

Keeping kids safe from dog bites, rabies

By Charlie G. Bañas

SUMMER IS HERE again. By this time, most children would be at home, enjoying their much-anticipated school break. Sadly, however, this is also the time when a significant increase in the number of children getting bitten by dogs (and to a lesser extent, cats) occurs.

"Based on available data, there is enormous evidence that between 30 and 40 percent of all victims of dog bites in areas where rabies is prevalent are children under 15 years of age.

More alarmingly, majority of these young victims fail to seek treatment or their because their family is not well informed about the danger of a dog bite or because of the cost entailed in its treatment, which can range from P3,000 to P10,000," lamented Dr. Beatriz Quintiliso, chief of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Clinical Research Division.

No known cure

"Once the virus spreads from the bite site in the peripheral nerves to the spinal cord and brain, the illness progresses from initial flu-like signs and symptoms to convulsions, aggression, hydrophobia (or fear of water, the classic sign), breathing failure and almost always death," Quintiliso explained.

There is no known cure for rabies, and only six people have been known to survive this disease.

Most victims of rabies prefer to die at home rather than be admitted to a hospital because of the hopelessness of the condition. Those admitted to the hospital are isolated, given heavy sedation and comfort care.

Sadly, that is the best that can be offered.

According to the Department of Health, the Philippines is ranked fourth in the world (and counting) behind in terms of human rabies cases (ours is China, India and Bangladesh). Around 200 to 250 Filipinos die from rabies every year.

Preventive vaccination

"Which is why getting a preventive vaccination—called preexposure prophylaxis—is highly recommended. Preventive vaccination entails three injections over a period of three or four weeks. A booster dose maintains the protection provided by the vaccination," Quintiliso explained.

The doctor added that being vaccinated simplifies treatment if a person is bitten since the clinician or the need for rabies immune globulin and decreases the number of doses of rabies vaccine needed after being bitten.

It also provides protection in case of delayed treatment or inadvertent exposure.

This is important because many people live or work (such as veterinarians or field workers assigned to remote areas) in areas where they may not be able to get immediate medical attention, or where immunizing products may not be readily available.

Important for children

Preventive vaccination is specially important for children because they are the most frequently exposed group.

"Their small size makes them less intimidating to animals and prone to bites on the head and neck area. They are also more likely to be involved in provocative behavior, fail to recognize and avoid threatening behavior and are less able to shield themselves or escape when attacked," Quintiliso explained.

In fact, this is one of the reasons the recently signed "Rabies Act of 2005" provides for pre-exposure immunization of school children aged 5 to 14 years and living in areas where a high incidence of rabies exists.

"Many people believe that rabies is transmitted mainly by stray animals. The fact is, as much as 80 percent of human rabies cases were bitten by pet dogs," Quintiliso said. This is why it is just as important to have pet dogs and cats vaccinated.

Successfully controlled

In many rabies-free countries, numbers in vaccination of the dog population were instrumental in successfully controlling rabies.

Other measures that can be implemented for rabies prevention include proper and immediate washing of dog bite wounds, provision of vaccine and immune globulin to dog bite victims, promotion of responsible pet ownership and dog population control measures.

The government, in its National Rabies Prevention and Control Program, has set the goal of declaring the Philippines rabies-free by year 2020. The how-way to achieve this is by educating people on how to reduce the risk of contracting rabies from dogs, vaccination (up dogs as well as dog bite victims and providing preexposure vaccination to those who are at risk, including children," the doctor said.

Many eggs, one basket

DISCOVER

Maxine Santos Baños

IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY PICKING JUST one army to share here from all the possibilities. So this week three short shorts are presented.

In spray tacky, in hair tomorrow

Perfect hair deserves take some heavens like hairspray, and they don't waste the sweets.

In the March issue of the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology, Mohammad Mahdi Rahei and his colleagues from the Tehran Biotechnology Center in Japan described the process of isolating and characterizing the new species they've named *Microbacterium halotorans*.

Rahei also noted that a separate species of bacteria found in hairspray had originally been found to also be called "hardened material."

"Contamination of cosmetic products is rare but some products may be unable to withstand the growth of even rare bacteria," said Rahei in a statement. "We hope our study will benefit the formulations of hairspray to prevent contamination in the future."

Rahei did not name brand labels, but he did say that researchers will next look at whether or not the bacteria are harmful to humans.

Green eggs of chocolate

If the thought of spraying bacteria onto your hair is disconcerting enough to make you reach for chocolate, consider the "yo-egg." Mostly after Valentine's Day, the public chocolatier maker Cadbury announced that as part of its eco-friendly commitments, it was releasing a new chocolate-eggconstruct, with one big change.

As the press release put it, "The Treasure Egg represents a reduction of over 75 percent, plastic and felt (previous hen cardboard chain previously used in standard eggs."

Translation: the eggs come wrapped in gold and purple foil instead of also being put in a box away from potentially prying fingers. The company estimates they will save more than 2,000 trees as a result of their efforts.

Sure's scarcy—the "non-eggs" themselves are still made of chocolate. And they come in dairy chocolate and chocolate caramel flavors, too.

Cracking cartons, not eggshells

So chocolate eggs? How about something a reduced-effort chicken egg to email? In the March 12 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, researchers from Germany and Switzerland describe a new method that makes chicken eggs safer to eat for people allergic to them.

Eggs are among the most common food allergies, alongside nuts, milk, shellfish and wheat. One study last year estimated that as many as 2 percent of all preschool-era are allergic to eggs, and the allergy can last until adulthood. Illness can range from

MORE SCI-1

Keeping his part of the bargain

By Dr. Rafael B. Castillo

THREE WEEKS AND A FEW days (rather) he died. Dr. Agapito "Peter" Bolista, confined at the Makati Medical Center for the 14th time since his medical condition was diagnosed just days a year ago, was told of the critical condition. Her daughter Margie was in Margie is a professionals practicing in the United States.

That morning she was diagnosed to have a bleeding aneurysm in the brain. As the magnetic resonance imaging plates were handed to Margie's neurosurgeon friend, he was horrified by what he saw and immediately labeled it as "ugly" or emergency brain surgery. Margie's life hung on a balance.

Dr. Nilsay took the news calmly and prayed. Minutes later, he consulted friends on the staff, Drs. Nilo Alfredo Bolista, a pediatric cardiologist, that their daughter will be all right. He has just made a quick visit to God to see his daughter's life, and to take his turned. Despite a weakened state made audible only with some effort, he says certain that God will grant his request.

Meanwhile, in the United States, a team of brain surgeons worked cautiously on Margie's aneurysm. It was a deadly waiting. blood already and one wrong move might make it burst. Upon learning of Margie's condition, her friend Nina, who's also practicing dermatology in Illinois, dropped everything to be at her sister's side.

Good news

Doctors Penny and Cleona are usually wanted for news about Margie's condition. You delivered the good news that the operation was a success. Every day, the doctors served crews to update them of Margie's condition. And just a few days later, Margie was up on her feet, with no sign whatsoever that she had been through the ordeal. Her surgery and recovery was like a miracle. "I told you so," Dr. Penny told his wife and sons Toby and Jeff. "I told you good..."

MEDICAL FILES

Barely three weeks after his critical brain surgery, Margie got a clearance from her neurosurgeon to fly to Manila with sister Tina. It was a touching family reunion. Everyone gathered around the bed as Dr. Penny led everyone in prayer, with specific intercessions for each, including words of encouragement for their grandchildren. He thanked God and praised God for sparing his daughter's life. Now he was ready to keep his part of the bargain. He was ready to go.

Three days later, doctors received reports of massive effusion in Dr. Penny's medical team to erase complications of his leukemia-like blood disorder, he breathed his last with a smile on his face. As he had instructed, his body was cremated on the same day.

An elegant yet celebrated but rather, it only added still more eyes. So would have loved what he saw: many well surrounding the elevated plank of wood where the urn rested, plants and white flowers artistically arranged on a miniature garden, his favorite wooden driver with his has an up of the golf shoes and golf balls signed by his buddies nestled on the small mounds of earth beneath the wood that bear his urn.

The life of Dr. Penny was so much like the game of golf. And the day he died, he has crossed the greatest hazard and obstacle of them all and his lipstick in the loveliest green. And God was there holding the flag of the last hole, saying, "Great round of golf, Penny."

Penny's life was indeed a great round of golf.

Highly respected

Dr. Bolista was one of the eyes's highly respected cardiologists, practicing at the Philippine Heart Center and Makati Medical Center. He was a past president of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) and Philippine College of Cardiology (PCC). He also chaired the Philippine Society of School Cardiology (SSAC) which is the mandarin gatekeeper of the PHA-PCC training exam that only competent cardiologists earned the titles of Diplomate of the Philippine College of Cardiology and Fellow of the PCC, and that only well-equipped and well-organized training institutions are allowed to train would-be cardiologists.

Dr. Penny lived life and passioned his profession with the same passion he showed in the golf course. In golf, every swing is vital. Golf has its 18 holes of play, a player spends only an average of 4.5 minutes swinging but that leaves a more analyzing, visualizing and preparing as much as the swing. You rush a swing, and chances are, it will be a bad swing, he would tell his buddies.

Dr. Penny based medicine: "If you accept to do a job, you have to make sure you have prepared for the job and you know you can do it well," he once said when he was the chair of the SSAC. He was one-

KEEPING-B2.1

Study seeks to improve high blood pressure control in RP

IN THE NATIONWIDE SURVEY "Project 2" conducted by the Philippine Heart Association in 2007, it was found that the 14.3 million Filipinos with hypertension (high blood pressure), 25 percent were not aware of their condition, hardly as treatment was concerned, only 15 percent were controlled (high blood pressure levels).

Given this backdrop, PHA president Dr. Efren Vicedo recently announced during a media briefing held at the Heart Center, PHA's decision to conduct a survey dubbed "Physician-related Factors Determining Optimal Blood Pressure Control among Hypertensive Filipinos."

According to the PHA Council on Hypertension Chair, Dr. Emma C. Trinidad, the study mainly aims to identify and evaluate the significant physician-related factors determining blood pressure control among Filipino high blood pressure sufferers in Metro Manila. "This will be a pilot study and hopefully this will progress to become a nationwide survey in the future," Dr. Trinidad added.

Leading causes of death, disability

In her presentation titled "Gaps in the Management of Hypertension in the Philippines," Dr. Trinidad pointed out that the burden of cardiovascular diseases as well as prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease in the Philippines is rising. From 1990 to 1997, diseases of the heart and diseases of the vascular system remained to be the 1st and the 2nd leading causes of mortality (death) and morbidity (disability) in the country. Hypertension, in particular, has an increasing prevalence of 11 percent in 1993, to 22 percent in 1998, and since then has more or less stabilized at 23 percent in 2007.

Dr. Trinidad also showed that based on the "Project 2" study, the given rates of hypertension was 23 percent (757 counts of hypertensive subjects in the 3,435 individuals screened). And one of the 757 hypertensive subjects showed that only 460 of them (60 percent) were on antihypertensive medications, with 40 percent compliant with medications. However, it was also found that the blood pressure control rate was only 26 percent among those on medications, or a very low control rate of only 15 percent of the entire hypertensive population.

PHA director Dr. Eugene Reyes explained that the pilot study, which PHA is set to embark on in partnership with pharmaceutical companies, aims to describe the healthcare practices of doctors; determine the significant health practices of doctors that could affect blood pressure control; compare the significant healthcare practices of doctors in their own controlled and uncontrolled BP groups; and determine whether the doctor's approach to blood pressure control is in accordance with the International guidelines (the Joint National Committee VII (JNC 7) and the World Health Organization, and local guidelines for management of hypertension.

Step in the right direction

"This partnership with the PHA is a step in the right direction toward improving hypertension management in the country," said Jesse Goldschmidt, Novartis Healthcare Philippines country head. "We look forward to a productive and effective collaboration."

Dr. Trinidad also stressed that based on the guidelines of the JNC 7, the goal blood pressure control is 140/90 mmHg, and for those with diabetes and chronic kidney disease, the goal is 130/80 mmHg.

"Besides aiming to improve the control of hypertension in the country, we also believe that this PHA-sponsored study will also become an important source of much-needed local data since most of the epidemiological data being used by Filipino doctors are based on US or European surveys and studies," said Dr. Fausto Domingo, Novartis Healthcare Philippines chief scientific officer.

Novartis is committed to helping support PHA, the country's leading authority on cardiovascular health.

"Through this collaborative effort with PHA, we hope the study will help doctors improve the identification and the control of high blood pressure in this country and ultimately stop the progression of this," added Toby Lalor (hypertension) among Filipinos," Goldschmidt added.

"Besides aiming to improve the control of hypertension in the country, we also believe that this PHA-sponsored study will also become an important source of much-needed local data since most of the epidemiological data being used by Filipino doctors are based on US or European surveys and studies," said Dr. Fausto Domingo, Novartis Healthcare Philippines chief scientific officer.

Providing free cataract surgery to PGH patients

By Franz Marie Cruz, MD
Contributor

CATARACT IS THE LEADING CAUSE of reversible blindness worldwide. Cataract surgery is the most frequent procedure performed in the Iloilo Ophthalmologic Arts Bund (IOAB) with about 1,500 cases done every year.

The IOAB houses the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (DOVS) of the Philippine General Hospital and the Extension II of the Philippine College of Medicine. It was built from 2003 to 2006 with funding from the Spanish government and Queen Sofia.

One of its missions is to serve the Filipino people with quality and affordable eye care. Every year, it sees 30,000-40,000 patients with eye problems in its various subspecialty and general clinics.

Financial support

Even though PGH is the biggest government hospital, cataract surgery ordinarily still cannot be done without some monetary expense from the patient or his/her family. Moreover, with financial support and assistance from various charitable institutions in both private and government sectors, these services can be made free for the patients of the SGOH.

One of the most generous patrons of the DOVS providing free cataract surgery is the Lions Tong Foundation, a conglomerate most organizations (NGOs) which give its funding from the Chinese community in the country.

Cataract missions

Over the past two years, the department with the full and active support of the Chi Lions Tong Foundation has held 2 major cataract missions at the SGOH. To-date, these missions are held if its 5 times a year and have serviced more than 350 PGH patients with free cataract surgery. This year, the foundation headed by Robert Go aims to increase the number of cataract surgery services to two every month in order to serve more patients.

The Chi Lions Tong Foundation was founded in the early 1990s by Lucio Chua but it was only in 1995 when it was established as PGH through the Medical Social Service. Its mission is to provide "compassionate services from coming from the heart to our countrymen" through its various charitable activities.

Aside from providing free cataract surgeries and outside the SGOH, the two other major projects of the foundation are providing financial assistance and low-cost dialysis to PGH three patients as well as donating sacks of rice to different missionary churches all over the Philippines.

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences of the Philippine General Hospital with the full support of the officials of the UP system has been and remains at the forefront of delivering quality eye care to the Filipino people, especially the underserved. It is dedicated itself to the mission of UP as a celebrants its centennial years of service to the Filipino people.

Valuable lessons from a virus

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT how something microscopic might not something big.

For two weeks, I had been suffering from what I thought was intermittent bouts of the flu punctuated by episodes of nausea and vomiting. With misgivings to school and deadlines looming, I chose to ignore the warning signs and kept working. During one meeting, a doctor friend and the editor of my eyes had a distinct yellowish hue. I dropped everything and went straight to St. Luke's Medical Center.

I was sick with hepatitis A, I was told by specialist Dr. Isabel Gopez-Gonzales, my attending physician, confirmed the diagnosis through a series of blood tests. Liver function tests and an ultrasound examination of my liver, pancreas and gall bladder. I was admitted to St. Luke's, primarily hydrated with intravenous dextrose, provided nutritional support and given appropriate antinauseating medications.

Crash course

Dr. Gopez-Gonzales not only treated me but also gave me a crash course about my illness. Hepatitis A is an acute infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). This tiny viral parasite is spread when fecal particles from one person are introduced into any of several ways) into the mouth of another person—the so-called fecal-oral route. Drinking contaminated water and eating food prepared or handled by viral-infected hands are the most common modes of transmission. Hepatitis A is highly prevalent in developing countries, where it is often contracted during childhood. Children who get infected with hepatitis A usually do not develop symptoms; both do not the cure for adults.

Common symptoms include flu-like symptoms (low-grade fever, fatigue and abdominal pain), nausea, vomiting, appetite loss, passing tea-colored urine, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes). Untreated, hepatitis A progressively damages the liver and may cause some kidney failure. Because it is a self-limiting viral infection, hepatitis A usually requires no treatment except symptom bed rest, hydration and supportive nutrition. The infection eventually passes out on about two weeks. The only good thing—if you can call it that—about hepatitis A is that it confers lifelong immunity once infected, your body develops antibodies that protect you from the infection for life.

Forced vacation

After my discharge from the hospital, I rested at home for two weeks, as per the strict instructions of Dr. Gopez-Gonzales. She also issued a note negotiable "absolutely non-work" order. My forced vacation gave me plenty of time not just to recuperate but to reflect on well. For most of my adult life, I'd been a staunch advocate of a healthy lifestyle. I exercised regularly, ate a sensible diet, and practiced moderation.

As the vacuum head of the family, I made sure my children, parents, sisters and relatives received the best possible healthcare. Sadly, I had neglected to take care of my health. I had only myself to blame for my hepatitis A and B; I got my hepatitis B shots but missed out on the hepatitis A vaccine. A two-dose vaccine provides near-100 percent protection against hepatitis A infection for at least 10 years and possibly for life.

During my convalescence (otherwise known as "doing nothing"), I missed several important commitments, one of which was about an hour from my heart. I was scheduled to speak on Modernizing Hospital Services at the St. Luke's Hospital Management Seminar Conference organized by the Center for Global Best Practices. I had looked forward to learning from the 150 hospital executives and administrators who attended the meeting.

Preventive healthcare

During my recent checkup, Dr. Gopez-Gonzales congratulated me for having "graduated" from hepatitis A and being an "educated" patient. Religiously following her instructions helped speed up my recovery. Thanks to Dr. Gopez-Gonzales' advice, something good had come out of school experience: I share this story to find women like me, those who juggle family and career, will not have to learn this lesson the hard way. Aside from adopting a healthy lifestyle, go for regular medical checkups and ask your doctor about recommended vaccines. Always take care of your loved ones.

I had to get sick with a virus to realize that we are not invincible. We don't have to go through the same ordeal to learn the valuable lesson.

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at ito-quiz@hsph.com.

CONTRIBUTED

Leksell Gamma Knife procedure controls metastatic brain tumors

METASTATIC CANCERS OR THOSE that spread to other parts of the body such as the brain account for a large number of cancer deaths. They usually coincide with a primary cancer and originate from the lung, breast, colon, kidney, prostate and pancreas cancer.

Dr. Edilberto Amante Penpatre, head of the Radiation Oncology section of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and a member of the Philippine Gamma Knife Center, says that cancer does not confine itself to one cancer.

"Tumors spread through the bloodstream or lymph nodes. In fact, most of the tumors we see in our clinic at the Phil Gamma Center is involved metastatic cancer," he says.

Nonsurgical treatment

The Phil Gamma Center has already treated thousands of patients who suffer from brain tumors and other similar conditions without using the non-surgical Leksell Gamma Knife treatment.

The procedure involves beaming a dose of radiation to the area on the brain to stop or reduce its growth. Radiation beams are delivered through 201 cross-firing points surrounding the patient's head. These beams are focused to conform to the size and shape of the target lesion, thus preventing injury to surrounding tissues.

Dr. Penpatre says metastatic carcinomas are very common in the late stages of cancer. The Leksell Gamma Knife treatment of previously cancerous metastases is known.

In fact, studies show that its control rates are very high.

Save a lot on hospital bills

One of the best things about the Leksell Gamma Knife procedure is that it does not involve any incision. Unlike other invasive procedures, patients need not spend days in the hospital for post-treatment, hence, save a lot on hospital bills.

The Leksell Gamma Knife treatment is likewise the best option it comes to treating deep-seated lesions which are hard to access via traditional invasive surgery.

Skull-based meningiomas, for one, may often recur after operation and conventional surgery may lead to incisive cranial nerve dysfunction and other complications. The Leksell Gamma Knife treatment, which is noninvasive, reduces these risks.

Many eggs, one basket

From page B2-1

nuclei to stomach aches, and in extreme cases, death.

Led by food chemist Angelika Stochs from the University of Hamburg, the chemists used a mass spectrometer to study how small amounts to produce the allergens in the eggs. Their conducted showed that the processed eggs were nearly 100 times less allergenic compared to the raw form.

The technique used liquid pasteurized eggs; it and reduced or final product makes it to supermarket sales, consumers will likely have to pour their eggs out of a carton rather than crack an egg shell.

"If eggs are pretreated according to the described procedure, allergenicity could be strongly reduced while maintaining and many properties were preserved," Petzlbar and her co-authors write in their paper.

To prove it, they compared samples of raw white and yolk and egg powder with the liquid pasteurized eggs and the reduced-allergen eggs. The differences in taste and texture between the two types of eggs were minimal, the researchers said.

E-mail the author at mmoss@utmvic.com.

Keeping his part. . .

From page B2-1

of those who pushed for the institutionalization of the nursing program in Cardiology, defending Cheli's the argument competencies expected of such trainees on a yearly basis. It would have been a big loss to the Philippine Heart Association chaired our honorably retained and bolstered cardiologists, he would say. Indeed, training of would be cardiologists, he would say. Indeed, training of would be cardiologists, he would say. Indeed, would rest the lives of so many critically ill heart patients in the future, would not be realized.

I never had a chance to play golf with Dr. Perlas. He died almost four years succeeding his first-to-race golf buddies. "Don't catch your string."

The following through action in the golf game is important. A great stance or "posture" doesn't always of a good swing unless you do the necessary follow-through. Dr. Perlas has learned is something he expressed is an outstanding person, and made sure he did what needed to be done to succeed in his career. What he learned is, he was an action person and he showed his leadership by example. Enough for even action. He was blessed with the opportunity "pursue" his interests and showed that "genius" was meaningless without action.

And Dr. Perlas never rested for words to express his appreciation, something which might have caused the displeasure of some people. Not a few can recall the several occasions when the PHA's whereabouts he stood for what he believed in and argued for it no matter what the majority might have thought. It might have been a lonely position to take sometimes, but he swung with the same passion, if not more, to get his ball out of the rough, and then, at no many times, he did.

A measure of integrity

Golf has always been regarded, as a gentleman's sport. "How one plays golf is a measure of his integrity." Dr. Perlas would tell his golf buddies. And it was a gentlemen always kept in part of the bargain. As Dr. Perlas did until the very end.

In golf, bogeys is to many losing make the game exciting and a good challenge for those aiming birdies. They add speed and volume to the pulse and make the palm sweat. Some, such are described in their golf terms, but they never gave up losing succumbed to them, will do the rounds again to tackle them and prevail over them.

Everyone knew Dr. Perlas as a very determined person, very strong-willed. He challenge was for him no game, no obstacle insurmountable that can deter him from pursuing what he believed in. He looked at the hardest and more hazards of life as simply part of the terrain, as the hardest holes on what he viewed as a heaven's golf course. That what problems lay ahead. What ever matter, he would roll on.

Up to the end, he showed this unfilled determination. Not all, but many of his colleagues fought the battle brought about by his illness. He showed the definitive action to overcome it despite the odds. He knew that this was probably the deepest hazards the most difficult angle he was trying to get out of, but by using fairside and laterally, he is never swaying before, again and again in his full legal rolling back to the same spot it was. . . until he was successful in sinking.

Just as he lay sentenced by his golfmate either, Dennis Perlas, death took over and got his ball out of the rough, was all the hazards of his life and landed it safely on the green. Dennis' serenity is utmost, whose there is no more disappointment in a bad shot or hook, no more when and putts, no more discomfort and frustration over bad lies and sloppy shots. That day he scored an ace, or perhaps an albatross. And God was pleased with the great golf of the Dr. Perlas he has played.

Eureka! Pesticides harm babies

BECAUSE OF DISEASE, MALARIA and other insect-borne diseases, many of us have little choice but to use pesticides. Pesticides are found in our air, water, soil and food sources. But many pesticides have harmful effects on the environment, and in a recent study, pesticides have been revealed to be extremely dangerous for children, especially fetuses and infants.

EUREKA!

Genevieve N. Lee-Chua

"Most pesticides are poisonous in the nervous system and abnormalities in brain development in the fetus have been described in animals and humans who have been exposed to them," says Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea Jr., professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University in Michigan and visiting professor of the College of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at the University of the Philippines in Manila. Dr. Ostrea became known for his creative use of meconium (first stool of infants) to detect drug use to their mothers, and for this and other achievements, he is included in my book "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists."

Now Dr. Ostrea focuses his attention on pesticides. The fetus is especially vulnerable to pesticides, because while in the womb, the fetus undergoes very rapid development. Fetus cells increase, migrate, form networks. To make matters worse, even smaller doses of pesticides can be dangerous for the fetus, because it cannot quickly break down poisons. No wonder, research has shown that several learning and other behavioral disorders may be traced to even low-level exposure to pesticides in infancy and in the fetus.

Grave statistics

Dr. Ostrea notes the sad statistics in the United States. "Nearly 12 million children (17 percent of the total) under the age of 18 years old by Caucasian or more learning, developmental, or behavioral disabilities. Approximately one percent of all children are mentally retarded and learning disabilities affect approximately 5 to 10 percent of children in public schools. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder affects approximately 3 to 6 percent of all schoolchildren, though recent evidence suggests the prevalence may be as high as 17 percent."

The incidence of autism is as high as two per thousand children. Within the state of California, the number of children referred with the autism registry increased by 210 percent between 1987 and 1998. Although increased detection, reporting or record keeping, or some combination of these factors may account for some of these increases, nonetheless, they are likely reflect a problem of epidemic proportion and environmental toxicants have been implicated as a particular cause."

How about the Philippines? Though there are little statistics here, there may be many children with disabilities. Of course there can be other causes for their disabilities, but perhaps pesticides can be a probable reason.

To determine the effects of pesticides here, Dr. Ostrea and his team have been conducting an ongoing study of about 700 newborns in Metro Manila. Lead abnormal, their fathers in Malolos, Bulacan. Funded by the UP NIH and the US Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the local EPA, the study will follow the children in the homes of these pregnant women. The nearly weekly, widespread use of commercial insecticides, as well as the presence of many factories here, and popular pesticides in their farms.

Toxic chemicals

"These pesticides comprise two of the most common classes used worldwide," Dr. Ostrea says. "Organochlorines, chlorine carbamates and pyrethroids." The former are widely used in homes, schools and farms, and have largely replaced DDT due to its toxicities potential.

But this does not mean that they are safe. In humans, poisoning with these compounds can result in irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, respiratory difficulties, skin, low heart rate and blood pressure, shock and death.

Pyrethroids are natural insecticides produced by certain species of the chrysanthemum plant. Called "household" pesticides, they quickly penetrate and knock out the nerve systems of the insect. They are present in most of the popular home and farm pesticides. These safety is still under study. How would we'll look at the study results.

For a copy of "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists," call Ateneo at (632) 426-6001 to 09 local 4840. For information on pesticide effects, e-mail Dr. Ostrea at evostrea@med.wayne.edu.

Is concrete a green material?

THE ONGOING DEBATE ON WHETHER concrete is green or not continues to haunt the building industry. After all, concrete is the most widely manufactured material in the world with over 10 billion tons produced annually. It is valued for its durability, inexpensive strength, versatility and almost limitless design possibilities. As the name does it account for about 5 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions that contributes to global warming.

In the United States, the cement industry has adopted strategies to reduce this environmental impact concrete. They have set goals to increase energy efficiency 20 percent by the year 2020 and reduce CO_2 emissions by 10 percent per ton of product, based on a 1990 baseline.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amando de Jesus

How concrete is made

The first step in the production of concrete, the binder in it, processes, is the extraction of limestone and other raw materials. These are analyzed, blended and ground. The next step is to heat these ingredients at temperatures up to 2,400 degrees in a kiln where they react and partly fuse.

The clinker is the most energy intensive part of the process and adds the most to greenhouse gas emissions. This process is known as calcination. It produces a substance called clinker which is marble-sized. These are cooled and ground with gypsum and limestone to produce cement. Concrete is produced when cement is mixed with sand, aggregates and water.

Greenhouse gas emissions

Many-fire process of greenhouse gas emissions in cement manufacturing come from calcination and the burning of the fossil fuel needed to keep the kiln temperatures.

The emissions associated with calculation are difficult to reduce unless a substitute is found for limestone. Studies are now being conducted by several nongovernment organizations to create stronger, more durable, environment-friendly material.

Cutting down on cement use

One way to cut down on the use of cement is by using supplementary materials such as slag cement. By ash and silica fume—all products of other industrial systems. Slag is derived from the steel-making process. Fly ash is derived when coal is burned in power plants and similar facilities. Silica fume is a by-product of silicon and ferro-silicon metal production. By using these materials, less virgin materials are used and fewer materials are sent to the dumpsites.

Benefits

By using supplementary materials to replace cement, the physical property of concrete is enhanced. Take slag for example. Due to addition, a denser and more durable concrete is developed as it becomes permeable to water.

One possible disadvantage with using a large percentage of slag is that it takes longer for the concrete to gain strength. However, it can result in higher compressive strength than conventional concrete.

Today more and more concrete structures contain at least small quantities of supplementary materials, such as slag and fly ash. Some researchers are now hoping that these supplements may completely replace cement in the future.

New generation of concrete

The new breed of concrete known as ultra-high performance concrete was developed several years ago. It incorporates metallic or organic fibers and does not need reinforcement. It is also 4 to 8 times stronger than conventional concrete. Since it is possible to use smaller structural members, it is then more economical with fewer greenhouse gases.

Another new breed of cement that has environmental benefits was introduced in Europe recently. It contains titanium dioxide. Originally it was used as materials for the appearance of a building's exterior. Scientists later found that the product facilitated a chemical reaction using light to improve air quality by breaking down pollutant particles.

In many developed countries, residential communities alongside busy roadways are shielded from noise pollution by sound barriers. Some of these barriers are made of very expensive Plexiglas so as not to cut visual access.

In the United States especial concrete panels that has high-absorbing quality has been introduced as a barrier to cut down light, sound and pollution in heavily traveled highways. They are also studying how it can help reduce pollution within urban areas.

Whereas steel may be recycled in its original, or near-original state, concrete can be reused mostly in a downgraded form such as filling material.

(E-mail the author at amandodejesus@gmail.com.)

BLAST FURNACE slag was used to replace 50 percent of the cement in the 18-story building's exposed reinforced concrete structure of the US Federal Building in San Francisco. This prevented the release of about 3,000 tons of CO_2 into the atmosphere.

Eastwood LeGrand 2 launches ultra spacious loft model unit

LEADING PROPERTY DEVELOPER MEGAworld Corp. is helping bring an end to our search for a spacious abode. The locks on Eastwood LeGrand Tower 2, Megaworld's latest upscale project, promise the fulfillment of such desires.

Rising 32-stories above the Palm Drive tct of Eastwood City Entertainment Center, the locks on Eastwood LeGrand Tower 2 is a premium condominium development that is redefining the standards of high living in this side of the city.

The building is a testament to the intelligence of its design and the skillful interplay of metal, concrete and steel which has formalized classic use concrete later. The tower's angular fenestration affords the wide vistas of the eastern hills of Antipolo, Laguna de Bay to the south and the Ortigas skyline in the west.

Meanwhile, the top-most floors are set in a diagonal step-back and are flanked with steel arrow-tail embellishments. Art deco elements are also present even at the podium level, where the enclosed parking is found, which includes a generator gallery.

Eastwood LeGrand 2 is the first Eastwood City project to boast loft condos in its floors. Its other exclusive residential high-rise this side of the city could generate this sequestered measure of personal living space desired.

Eastwood LeGrand 2's luxurious split-level one-bedroom condo with either one or two bathrooms. Each is endowed with a spacious, modern kitchen and area provided a seamless kitchen. A rear terrace area, whose height spans both levels, is flanked by floor-to-ceiling windows, and forms the main suite for living and entertaining inside the condo.

The highlight, however, and the essence of the units are magnified by the customary compromises integrated to loft architecture. There is the cantilevered second floor dramatically hanging over the open kitchen. Meanwhile the elevated bedroom has a suspended brass floor-to-wall cable to balustrade is made from steel and glass.

Privacy assured

In spite of the open-style plan typical of lofty, Eastwood LeGrand 2 services in such a way that privacy is assured. The second level, for instance, seems forward enough to hide the bed from living area. Downstairs, the bed is also studied to hide the bedroom; these screens run also block incoming light in the morning or act as an additional decorative element.

The interiors take a lot of inspiration from the cosmopolitan lifestyle of today's young urban professional, according to the apartment division of Design Alliance. In the tradition of the Asian Modern, a finely balanced combination of different materials (wood, metal, glass and stone) and textures from the design base for these lofts.

One wall of the condo unit living area is covered with a modernist wall cladding made from slate, which provides a counterbalance to the opposing glass windows and off-white walls. The same duality goes for the silk-lined headboard and pillowcases found on the master's suite, together with a wall of the other glass partition framed by monolithic wooden headboard.

Meanwhile the solid granite countertop is playfully opposed by the kitchen's glass cabinet tiling. In the end, this dynamic interaction of contrasting elements makes the entirement of the loft's living space without ever having to say goodbye to ordinary.

And to leave this nick grandeur could never be easier. The units already come prepared with all necessary appliances, fixtures, and wood floors in living, sleeping and dining areas and ceramic tiles in the bathrooms. All you need to do is bring in your furniture from your favorite luxury shop and top-of-the-line appliances.

The exceptional lobby and reception area will make the best impression to any visiting guest with its art deco interiors and generous welcoming staff. At the seventh floor are intimate facilities exclusively reside with Eastwood LeGrand 2 residents in mind.

To check out the luxurious and spacious loft model unit of Eastwood LeGrand Tower 2, visit the showroom at Eastwood City's posh Orchard Road.

All set for some from this picture, Eastwood LeGrand 2's loft units have a second level that leans forward enough to hide the bed from being seen downstairs.

Preventing fires

From page B1 >

fact that wirings are hidden from view. Have no say the electrical line in the wall? Get a licensed electrical engineer to conduct a fire safety inspection on your house or establishment every once in a while. Don't scrimp on cost and hire a "fly-by-night" inspector (you intended).

Insurance Property reported last year that almost 50 percent of fires occur from residential communities and that most of them could have been prevented.

The Bureau of Fire Protection has to avoid these home and life-saving tips:

1. Eliminate fire hazards through good housekeeping. Dispose waste paper, rubbish and other flammable materials regularly.
2. Keep matches out of children's reach.
3. Oil or gas lamps and candles should be placed away from curtains. Do not light them near windows, fans or where children or pets may topple them. Put out the flame before going to bed.
4. Do not keep flammable materials like gasoline, alcohol and paint inside the house.
5. Frequently check your electrical installations, and have all frayed wirings and electrical fixtures changed or repaired by a licensed electrician.
6. Do not overload electrical circuits by putting additional lights and appliances.
7. Blown fuses should not be replaced with coins, wires or any other metal.
8. Never leave a lighted cigarette/cigar/pipe unattended. This may fall on flammable materials.
9. Keep a first-aid kit handy.
10. Put phone numbers of your nearest fire department near your phone.

JME Supreme® Premium Quality

Western Woods Flooring

"Oldest Name since 1985"

AVAILABLE: SOLID HARDWOOD, ENGINEERED HARDWOOD, ENVIRONE HDF LAMINATED OAK, MAPLE, BIRCH, TEAK, BEECH, MERBAU, BAMBOO WALNUT

STAINED: WALNUT, CHERRY, MAHOGANY

SPECIAL ON STOCK: SOLID OAK BOARD 1.5" X 12" X 3 FEET

Handyman

Federal Hardware

68, Westgate Alabang Home Depot

Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Filinvest Ave. Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa

Alabang Tele: (632) 771-2331 Telefax: (632) 771-2332

G.C Tele: (632) 7118985 • 87 • 71 Fax No. (632) 4139268

Customer Service Hotline (0917.4831088/0922.4813099

E-mail: jmesupreme_ph@yahoo.com.ph

This week Super means ari-sari- lam- ano- ngkanto- ake!

Super Pinoise

FLIP WITH SUPER

FLIP WITH SUPER

GODIVA Quality skin care need not be expensive!

Warm Removal P700
Diamond Peel / Vitamin C Facial P800
Thermal Shape P1,500
IPL Hair Removal P1,500
H Glutathione P1,500

digiprint

Resumé
Maries Francisco
NO VACANCY

Resumé
Maries Francisco
HIRED

Get good-looking ID photos at really attractive prices.

The cheapest ID photo in the country for as low as P29

DIGIPRINT goes beyond just taking your photo, we make you look good. We edit your ID picture before printing. And for a minimal fee, we can even retouch it to bring out your very best features. Put your best photo forward with DIGIPRINT.

For inquiries, please call: 855-1111 or visit our website at: www.digiprint.com.ph

AmiSa
Everyday is a holiday

AmiSa is a resort community situated in a peninsula comprised of a hotel, residential condominiums, proposed gaming center, and other recreational facilities. It is a place where you can enjoy breathtaking views of Cebu and breathe in fresh sea breeze.

All balcony units of 1, 2 and 3-Bedroom

For more information, please call
636-0888 and 0922-8380888

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

When paintings speak Filipino

By Joana R. Maculan

WHEN ONE THINKS OF Philippine art, visions of nipa huts, fishing villages and unusually happy farm animals flood ones mind. Socialist artists in nineteenth century Britain claimed that English pastoral scenes were represented as idyllic to keep the poor from recognizing their social conditions. The some-socialist thinkers may think that the bright colors in our Filipiniana are may well be concealing our own unhappy circumstances, except we Filipinos are not as polite as our British counterparts. When Filipinos paint about their social condition we do so with colors, icons and caricatures everywhere. Themes of revolution, abuse, poverty, power and exploitation shout from the canvases.

Many political statements have been made through art, especially in the wake of many recent political scandals. Years paper murder theme that took like traditional figures, to some artists resorting to caricatures and vulgar designs to voice out our frustrations, is it of any wonder why we are not being taken seriously? While some themes are dark and heavy and downright depressing, the recent Totok Kurgado show at the mezzo Art Gallery proved that political statements and revolution is not always depicted with Kalayaan red or Cory yellow. Ka-mezzo Jose Tence Ruiz wanted to show that real artists since the Colonial period have been reacting to the political situation of the country in such thought out frames of art and not just graffiti on the side of a building. Artists have done this either through their social realist framed paintings, or as cartoons for newspaper editorials. The Totok group chose from the Artcore's collection to create a visual discourse with artists ranging from Leo Vicente Manansala, J. Elizalde Bocobo, Roberto Chabet, Antonio Austria, Fernando Palanca, Lamberto Antonio. Those who participated from the Totok group are Edgar Talosig Fernandez, Mimay Gacho, Alfredo Esquillo, Noel Soler Quiros, Joana G. Flores, Jose Tence Ruiz, Roy Domingpanti, Wilson Cruz, Mark Salvatus, Boots Calubayan, Jay Pocong, Lui Tiotuico, Ken Ghiron, Don Estabrador and Richy Rosas.

MARK Salvatus' "Ajax," mixed media 2000

ALFREDO Esquillo Jr.'s "Jack en Pog," oil on canvas 2000

BOBBY Cabalbaya's "My Mama," mixed media 2000

JAY MaCENAS' "Boss Ex Machina," archival digital print on printed canvas 2000

Idyl Idols

Mark Salvatus' multimedia installation called "Spo" is paired in execution to Antonio Austria's work, "Soul Jazz" of 1965. I find that it is a reminiscence on the idolatrous nature of Filipino culture and the very Filipino tendency to ruin neither things together...for the sake of convenience. For a country that claims to be the "only Christian Nation in Asia" we certainly worship more than one. This is probably the only place in the world where you will find a mixture of a Sto. Niño alongside a Chinese good luck laughing Buddah or a lucky frog with a coin in its mouth. Other figures that are included are those of children's toys—an influence from the American culture that is ingrained in every Filipino no matter what their social background is. "Spo" also comments on the commodification of labor and mass production the west has brought to the Philippines. It also made at the first that our sense of individuality is watered down by the strong outside influences that we chose to idolize.

Boots Calubayan's "My Mama" looks like some of the biggest icons of the Virgin Mary wearing low Medieval dress iconic influence rise Mac. This work comes from a larger installation called "Pinoy Idol." If there is one idol that could rate up our belief system it would be the icon of the Virgin mother. This work brings to the forefront the materialistic society that we have, where to the Lord's mother is sometimes treated just one mother to us well, along with the strong Muslim influence in the country. The work is paired with Rose Virgin Mary statues all made by the little known art form artist simply called "The Madness of Madhlyn Abbey" who was discovered by Eric Torres in an exhibition in 1998. The poems that the Virgin Mother has ever this country is definitely connected anywhere else in the world.

People Power...Again?

Lutino Soriano's "Jack en Poy" of 1987 required two works in this exhibit with the iconic images speaking more than a thousand words painted a year after the First People Power revolution. Little did Soriano know that his work's subject would come back to haunt us again and again for the years to come. Alfredo Esquillo's work "Jack en Poy" is the answer to comments on the direction of the nation using the rose icon of the Philippines that we are recognized for all over the world. a colorful property. While most journey drivers consider themselves kings of the roads [perhaps depicted here in the crowns worn by the two main protagonists driven in their own intrepid way, get what they want on the road. Sometimes many illegal swerves they make. The jeep in this painting, however, sits on a rocker which does nothing but move from side to side. For a painting that initially looks like a light subject, its message is one that hits home in the question of where our nation is going. Emmanuel Garibay's jolly bumper "Mas Lugar Pa Sa Mina" on the other hand speaks of a struggle waged unity between all the public figures and cultures that have come to shape who we are today. Seen standing next to each other are Cory and Imelda who 20 years ago were at the helm of a power struggle. Today both ladies reside comfortably in the Metro, each gracing their own special events. Everyone here seems to just eventually get along. This piece is perhaps the most political piece from the survey artists not just for the inclusion of political icons, but for the blatant reluctance to the tables of power when many seem to be vested.

Femme Fatale

Jay Pocong's work "Boss Ex Machina" explores the role of a woman in society and how transnational forces treated the female body into a commodity. Pocong's work is paired with Gil Jose Reyes Velasco's "Si Hulipan ang Aking Isang Pedicurist" which explores the overnight women sitting like a reclining reclining "Mona in her bed in a shanty town. While Velasco's work shows off a warm voluptuous female form, Pocong's work is a cold light mechanic woman, both forms however represent the woman's body as an instrument to generate work. Jose Tence Ruiz's work Blue Screen Rendition looks like the deceptions version of Marie Antoinette, and is inspired by Mozzarella's "Deepsters." Mozzarella's abstract form looks like today's streets in a traffic jam, rather prophetic for a work done in the 60's to depict what gridlock looks like today.

While this show was an excellent display of the country's current state, it was done so in an elegant intelligent way. If more of our cullers and attempted coup d'etat's were planned as well as this show was curated, we might actually get somewhere.

JOSE Tence Ruiz's "Blue Screen Rendition," oil on canvas 2000

WELCOME TO THE CONVERSE CENTURY
CONVERSE CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF ICONIC BRAND

This year, Converse reaches a remarkable feat as it commemorates it's centennial year. Through the years, Converse has been reputed as one of the world's coveted, iconic brands. From basketball courts to the different rendezvous, from the birth of the All Star shoe in 1917 to the birth of the NBA and Rock n' Roll to today's pop culture, Converse has been on the feet and being worn by the True Originals.

Converse, which started as footwear company - and now carries apparel and accessories- has been and will continue to inspire originality to the next 100 years. The footwear collaboration has evolved from Chuck Taylor All Star (1921) to Jack Purcell (1935); to the resurgence of performance basketball through the signing of Dwayne Wade in 2003.

To highlight the Converse Century celebration is the launch of the Converse Century Footwear Collection that will pay homage to these who have made Converse the cultural icon that is today. The collection is a fusion of original design, product collaborations and re-issues of classic shoes. It includes variations of timeless classic and all new product that blends modern design and the Converse originality.

The Century collection is "once-in-a-hundred years" indulgence to the many people who have disrupted the status quo and changed the history by wearing the Original Converse shoes.

24/7 Super radar

by Janina Cuenca-Dunn and Stef Jose

EXPERIENCE We couldn't of knowing that you're willing to line dare for the good of Boston Cartilage the Philippines' pride of their years. It was around the mid-'90s the right to call for **Gentle Giver**. Their pull-distinctively crossing the lo and mesmerizing, and you'll wonder how would stay in the inner beauty like a movie double planet. You bring the lights off for, now know simultaneously and definitely make a huge difference in the world fight against global warming. Get to gather with your friends and friends, or do some meditation while contributing thoughts of love tonight from 6pm to 9 pm. Or maybe this could also be the most opportune time to finally leaving that long, delayed confession dinner with a special someone.

TOTO the list songs from the **'70s hit the mes to the '90s of love** such as "Africa," "Rosanna" along with their other classics when they performs live at the Araneta Coliseum on April 5, at the 10 Yes, Toto is still alive and well, may still be—as Eddie Van Halen described them—"ludicrously the most musicians in the planet." CIERTI-5865.

ABS nostalgic: Do you remember the good old, pre-Judds Timberlake days when boy bands were still at the top of their game—good-looking boys singing sweet songs, combining and killer dance moves to the sound of screaming girls? Then blast yourself for a heavenly good time at Reporte-ry Philippines slugfest **Killer Sings**, the award-winning off-Broadway musical sadomasochism openly Cinnamon-boy bandit's love to stardom or in the skins of God. Get ready for a heavenly good time starting April 6 to 23 at the Lu. ar Onstage Greenbelt 1. Call 887-4570 or 811-6888.

SEE the world through the eyes of film **Lomo movers**, all or its unique, colorful, distorted and soothing glory when Lomonauts presents LomoMurkal Manila at Nex Discotheque (Makapagal Avenue, Pasay City) now Mid of Asia today at 5 p.m. Experience Lomotion and songs performance by Shooter Shot, Pistol Mig device, Blurred-vigle Shiner, K Rocket, Spray Chest, Gale, Toy Junk, Legolia, and Specktol. For more information, log on to www.lomonauts.ph.

TASTE the flavors of the world with **Sweet Reclaire** exotic ways of Western cuisine at your doorstep. Don't be scared by their cute appearance. Sushi-like delicacies like the Singapore Laksa and sweet-as-your-mouth Iced Lychee Dew have delighted customers since they established themselves a few months back. The adventurous families or travelers who love new sensations can visit the 100 branches of low-Asia and complete cream of the sweet catering offerings. Red Ribbon Food Specialties (corner of Edsa Ext. and EMI Ave., T. 806-3900); Raleigh at Pharmafield (J.S. Cruz cor. Dizon Blvd., Mandaluyong, T. 637-1087); Land Publications Mailbox (Lot Pedro St cor. Ayala Ave., Makati, T. 897-1940).

Rock's first **BAND** of all **U2 concert** starting April 1 with U2 in 3D at the IMAX Theater of Mall of Asia, and at the 9 Cinemas in SM City North Edsa. While the multi-billion super band won't be performing live in Manila until sometime at the end of this year, the world's, at unbearably larger-than-life Bono popping out of the screen sounds like a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Find a time (an, register an account on U2concert.imax.com to be first to watch at its venue. It's definitely the next best thing to watching Bono live. Call 831-1250 or e-mail mall@imaxphilippines.com for more info or get the IMAX screenings and 831-1632 for 9 Cinema. Tickets unsolved at P180.

MRL the title of a party every Friday night on the 2nd deck of the **PTA Theater Center** (3 Emerald Drive, New Manila, Quezon City) at the Mahusayan Mall loop now. Dial Big Bro Friday, April 6, you can more bro's a different party theme every week—starting with Soka with Crayon Rhymo Soka, Philippine Playhouse for the comedy troupe on April 13, the Wetwood Subject on April 20, and rocking off the month with an evening of live, indoor spicy rhythm with Carnivale. Tickets at P500 exclusive of 1 free drink. Shows will be offered from 9 to 9 p.m. for dinner and happy hour. Entertainment begins at 9 p.m. for reservations or inquiries, call the PTA Marketing and Public Relations Office at 912-0027, 725-9244 to 49/911-838-4707, (0917) 305-8982. Ask for Dan, Julie or Bulette.

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information or events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or picking your free copy of 24/7 Weekend Navigator at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 gigs to 2897 for 10¢/txt and 5¢/txt by Smart. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24/7@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.

LifeBook U1010

- Intel® Processor U1100
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium
- Bluetooth® v2.0
- Fingerprint Navigation Technology

LifeBook P1610

- Intel® Core™ Solo U1400
- Genuine Windows® XP Tablet PC Edition
- Bluetooth® v2.0 + EDR Enhance Data Rate
- Fingerprint Recognition Technology

LifeBook P7230

- Intel® Core™ Solo Processor U1500
- Bluetooth® v2.0 + EDR Enhance Data Rate
- Fingerprint Recognition Technology

LIFEBOOK Built-In Confidence

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI)

Celebrate
Beauty
& Wellness
at Greenhills Shopping Center!

Join the FREE Yoga and Body Jam Sessions!
Visit all exhibitors, get a makeover,
and win exciting prizes!
April 5, 2008 • 10am - 8pm • V-Mall Lobby

Check out A Unique Fashion Show
Catch the performance of TRUE FAITH
March 29, 2008 • 9PM • Tiendesitas

SUN CELLULAR

STATUS QUOTE

'The Filipino is to *die* for!'
–The Super crew

LIGHTS OUT
60

SM SUPERMALLS

SM SUPERMALLS SUPPORTS EARTH HOUR 2008

SM Supermalls takes an active role in Earth Hour on March 29 from 8:30 pm. to 9:30 pm. as part of its environment program against global warming.

Launched in Australia on the 31st of March 2007, Earth Hour moved 2.2 million people and 2100 businesses in Sydney to turn off their lights for one hour. This campaign was created to take a stand against global warming, the greatest threat our planet has ever faced. As a result, this massive collective effort reduced the city's energy consumption by 10.2% for one hour in Australia.

To support this environment program, SM Supermalls commits to SM's corporate social responsibilities to create awareness to all its tenants and the community as well and in areas where SM Supermalls operates.

Highlighting SM Supermalls' participation in Earth Hour, SM Mall of Asia will shut off its iconic globe, façade lighting as well as street lamps in the surrounding Mall of Asia Complex, while the rest of the SM Supermalls nationwide will turn off their façade lighting for 60 minutes. To complement its efforts, SM Supermalls is encouraging its business partners and the malls' neighboring communities to join in making this global stand.

Make a difference and join Earth Hour. Switch off your lights for one hour from 8pm to 9pm on March 29 and help stop global warming.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Super Pop rock wonder kid

RJ Jimenez gives OPM a brand new reason to hum

By Jarun Gabrillo

AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, the guy believes like a musical conductor in the choices of a massive crescendo. He's all hands, all throttle, when he gets excited talking—which is just about anytime that he talks—eyes wide like a child on Christmas morning, but voice level and everyman like a running monologue.

He's the guy but his walks with the stride of someone who has something important to do at the other end of the room. He commands attention without really asking for it (his eyes do a little pleading); whether he's onstage, at lunch, or sitting awkwardly, his gangly body folded to fit the tiny seat with its back to straight that single night just will be acute, to a totally outcast of a roller skate.

Back to his childhood though. He appears to be the type of whose he's going, but he'll stop his legs on a heartbeat for just about anyone or anything that's asking for his time. He always accepts enthusiasm, and never dismisses anyone from doing what makes them happy (as long as it's not hurting anyone).

Not surprising for someone who, as a kid, repeatedly put himself in the limelight by singing at his buddies' birthday parties. "I always tried to get into the scene," he says.

Sing, swing

When RJ Jimenez turned 13, he saw all of his classmates obsessed with playing the guitar. Out of envy, he told his parents that he wanted the instrument too.

"My mom bought me one for my birthday. It was cheap—P750. My dad didn't want me to get one. Baka masayang lang daw. After two weeks, I learned how to play. Every night, I'd practice. I would play songs by the Beatles and The Beatles. My dad loved The Beatles kaya nainspire siya," he shares.

The 24-year-old loved the entertainment and the instrument loved him back. By the time he stepped into college, he was already playing gigs around town. There was a problem though—his parents were not pleased with their son running into a musician.

"My dad told me that music is fine as a hobby—kasi you can dabble it on but big as your life. It's going to complicate it. It was okay with me if they didn't understand. I still took school seriously. They wanted me to be a mass-goer or an engineer. But deep inside, I wanted something else. I had the passion for music, but that time, nobody pursue the confidence," he says.

A little lucky break changed everything. His sister heard about a radio-station find was giving away a P50,000 game. What did it take to snatch the prize? Out-sing the others. RJ told himself that there was nothing to lose, so he grabbed the opportunity.

"I recorded a demo CD the night before the deadline. Luckily, I got in and won. I told myself, go pursue this. Ayan na pala."

Almost exactly two months after he returned out of school with a degree in Electrical and Communications Engineering, RJ heard that ABS-CBN was introducing a new reality singing show called Power Duets Academy. It may not have been just luck that rendered when RJ got into the show in one of the finalists.

Fast-forward to a year after and a group of young co-eds on the west table swaddled glasses at him.

Academic star

Unlike other celebrity musicians, however, RJ isn't hard to slot. He's a single guy who talks a lot, and his philosophy is like his band's music. It's a semi-even mix of light and dark, sensual assurances, and base optimism. In other words, he's mainstream but he doesn't show it. It's refreshing.

It's the majority of new entrepreneurs that pulls RJ's debut album into view. I think it's because he doesn't write pop songs, he rap, rock n roll and emotions.

While competing in Power Duets Academy, he studied the chord with element when he began to churn out original tunes showing at the right places. RJ credits the Academy's benchmarks' OPM icon Jim Paredes for enriching him the right lessons.

"I improved so much in the Academy, in terms of songwriting. So this told me, what to say. "He had a one-on-one talk and he told me that he saw his young self in me. Any says to me, I told myself, wow. I'm a Jim Paredes! He told me that when he was young, he never imagined that he could be creative. I was like that," he says.

Guitar hero

RJ soon will not only his debut album. With the help of his equally talented bandmates, RJ introduced tunes that rebelled against the usual floor music straw fare. It has that done of clean pop, rough rock sensibilities, yet it's unsophisticated—it sounds so new.

It helps that RJ has all the principles intact. In an industry where gullible artists are moulded as modern idols, it's refreshing to hear two someone when a genuinely nice guy. Some ago, RJ penned a song called "You Love Pinks," an effort to help change the way the '90s generation understood relationships. Just a few months ago, #loveLovethat, an initiative with the same goal, got RJ to be one of Glaxi spokespersons.

"I was so happy," he shares. "That's all I want to do, really. To send a good message across."

When RJ speaks, the question marks are merely gone. He is an accepting musician who speaks plainly and seems to have the grown figured out in the sense that a child does. A sing is a sing. A wooden plank is a wooden plank. Music is good and the bulk comes the blank is not. It's a simple perspective, yet when applied to universal things like love, life, music, art. Outright, it's rather fine. And the fact that RJ possesses this quality makes one suspect that he's on his way to deliver a brand new voice to OPM.

His album, RJ JIMZ, is out. Catch him at Conspiracy Bar on all Wednesdays of April. Visit www.rjjimenez.com. Special thanks to The Rockfellows.

Discover what adventure waits in the dark.

NOKIA
Nseries

Tonight, only one team can claim victory at the Nokia N82 Wireless Adventure II. Will it be one of the thrill seeking partners or will it be one of the celebrity teams?

Keep track of your favorite teams over these radio stations (Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Hit 99.5, and Mix 101.9) or visit www.nseries.com/soulofthenight for live updates from form.tv 2am.

Nokia N82
Wireless Adventure II
DISCOVER MANILA'S SOUL OF THE NIGHT.

Nokia N82. Storytelling rediscovered.

Searching the soul of the night Armed and ready with the Nokia N82

Manila is undeniably one of the cities in the world that never sleeps. You can never call it a sleepy town, not even after dark. Be it in whether its emcee-ing or your friendly neighborhood videoke, a chill out party in its lounges, a sumptuous dinner or midnight snack in its hotels and restaurants, or those wild raves that last till sun up the next day—there's almost always a fun thing to do for everyone.

But where exactly are these city haunts found? Armed with Nokia's latest imaging wonder the Nokia N82, ten thrill-seeking teams are set to race against each other to discover what Manila has to offer when the sun has gone down at the Nokia Nuestra Wireless Adventure II.

This race is a continuation of last year's first of Manila race where teams explored Manila during the day using the Nokia N95. This time the race is at night so that the ten teams will get to see and enjoy Manila's nightlife, all in a different light, thanks to the Nokia N82.

The Nokia N82 is a 5-megapixel phone with Xenon flash and Carl Zeiss optics that will help the teams capture each experience with remarkably vivid photographs and videos. It also has a Panoblur feature for panoramic shots, A-GPS to help you navigate in and around town, a 2GB microSD that can store up to 800 high resolution photos and 84 minutes of video, and Wi-Fi capability.

As the market leader, Nokia is here to roll out initiatives such as the Nokia Nuestra Soul of the Night program, as we believe such initiatives will help consumers unlock the potential of their mobile devices and help connect communities around shared passions," says William Hamilton-Whyte, General Manager, Nokia Philippines.

The ten teams are composed of rue and barkha-romance celebrity, and media participants who are all set to race to the finish to win the P500,000 grand prize and a trip to Macau. Participants include - Advertising colleagues Ramon Rodriguez and Vina Cruz, Bamboo with Bea Cospo and Ana Ladion, Call center friends Shaio Domingo and Karen Pimentel, Couple Niki Santiago and Justin Rivera, Programming partners Jamie de Claro Chua and Uhenivan Wong, Philippine Star's Kathy Moran and newscaster Paolo Valenzuela, Philippine Daily Inquirer's Pam Pastor and Miss IQ Geoff Figueroa, Gadgets Magazine's Michelle Calleja and actor Alfred Vargas, and Yuletide Culture Challenge Go and MTV VJ/Radio DJ Andi Manzano, and recording artist Karylle and Manila Bulletin writer Therese Cornel.

Fans will be able to keep track of their favorites via the live updates accessible online at www.nuestra.com/soulofthenight and over select radio stations from 8pm to 2am on the night of the race.

From (left) José Ibrahim Fernández, Nokia General Manager William Hamilton-Whyte addresses the participants and the attendees

Not afraid of the dark.

This weekend, a total of five teams from around town will try to conquer the night at the Nokia N82 Soul of the Night Wireless Adventure II. The question remains, which one of them has what it takes to make it to the finish line ahead of the others?

Food Trippers

Amidst the chaotic maze of streets and back alleys, Manila is rife with interesting places to eat in. From traditional Pinoy cuisine to treats you didn't even know were edible, the hunting grounds are plentiful.

Two of the restaurant landscape's most ardent explorers are Bea Dee Corpus and her boyfriend Arnisan Ladino, both certified food trippers. Always on the lookout for new gastronomic experiences, the couple spends their free time hopping from one diner to another, sampling the best the city has to offer.

Equipped with an insatiable hunger for adventure, Bea and Arn make up Team Culinary Quest. Their vast experience in trying out new places to eat will of course also play when the couple sets out to explore Manila's vibrant nightlife.

Sound Mind and Body

Lychee Chocolate Martini in hand, Jane Chua spends her night moving to the music. But don't let her party girl vibe fool you. Jane is one tough cookie.

In fact, she met her boyfriend Christian Wong, at the gym. A mixed-martial arts and boxing enthusiast, Chris shares Jane's passion for music.

Living active lifestyles, Jane and Chris are more than ready for the rigors of the night. As Team Audio Attack, it's a sure bet that these two will never miss a beat when the music's up.

Working the Graveyard Shift

Veterans of the graveyard shift, Karen Pimentel and Shaio Domingo are more than accustomed to unusual hours. Despite their ungodly work hours, the duo still find time to enjoy the spoils of the night. From dancing to barhopping, it's a wonder how the two ever find time to get any work done.

Of all the competitors, Team Adrenalart could well be the most familiar with the nightlife.

Expect this pair of night owls to be in their element once the race begins.

Taking It Easy

In a fast paced city, slowing down is a tremendous luxury. Small wonder that countless spas, coffee shops and tea houses have sprung up all over town this past decade. Relaxing and chilling out are what Nikki Santiago and Justin Rivera are all about.

Sure the duo are into football and dancing, and share a love for cars. But they get their rush from their laidback lifestyle.

Exemplifying zen-like grace under pressure, Team Toilet To Bed may look unassuming, but don't let that fool you. Twelve minutes Nikki Santiago and Justin Rivera will be all fueled up and extra alert for the long night ahead.

Rules of Spontaneity

When Veronica Cruz first fired Ramon Rodriguez, one wonders if she had to lay down any ground rules for their relationship moving in how they both realized a point to live for the moment, it's highly unlikely that rules reign over this unbridled pair.

Still, you can't help but ask, outside of work, "What's the boss to this pairing?" Perhaps only Ramon and Vina will ever know the score.

Always ready for whatever life throws at them, the aptly named Team Free Spirit will likely prove untamed by the challenges of the night. Their devil-may-care attitude may just give them the edge they need over the others.

The Wireless Adventure II participants

The Wireless Adventure II participants holding their Nokia N82's with Nokia General Manager William Hamilton-Whyte

Meet The Celebrity Teams

Chalnie Go
Cebu City
TV Host
ABS-CBN News

Hobbies & Interest
Catching up with friends by watching a good DVD with them

Therese Cornel
Writer at the Lifestyle Section
Manila Bulletin

Hobbies & Interest
Singer Reading Running Traveling and exploring new places

Nicholas Calleja
Manila, NCR
Lifestyle Editor, Designer/Illustrator

Hobbies & Interest
Shopping, watching movies, Prison Break, Lost & Dollar and Universal's Best Top Models

Kathy Moran
Sub-Editor of the Lifestyle section
Philippine Star

Hobbies & Interest
Tennis at least once an everyday lover

Pam Pastor
Editor - Digital Section
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Hobbies & Interest
Blogging & Writing

Andi Manzano
MTV VJ/Journalist
Reporter/ UNTV, Radio Host "Drive Times" Studio 23

Hobbies & Interest
Swimming, Music, Food, Ultimate Glee and Reality Shows

Karylle
Recording Artist/ Singer-Dancer

Hobbies & Interest
Surfing the net reading, badminton & eco tripping

Alfred Vargas
San Juan, Metro Manila

Actor, GMA TV

Hobbies & Interest
Reading books Hanging out in coffee shops Motorcycles Diving, Golf and Wakeboarding

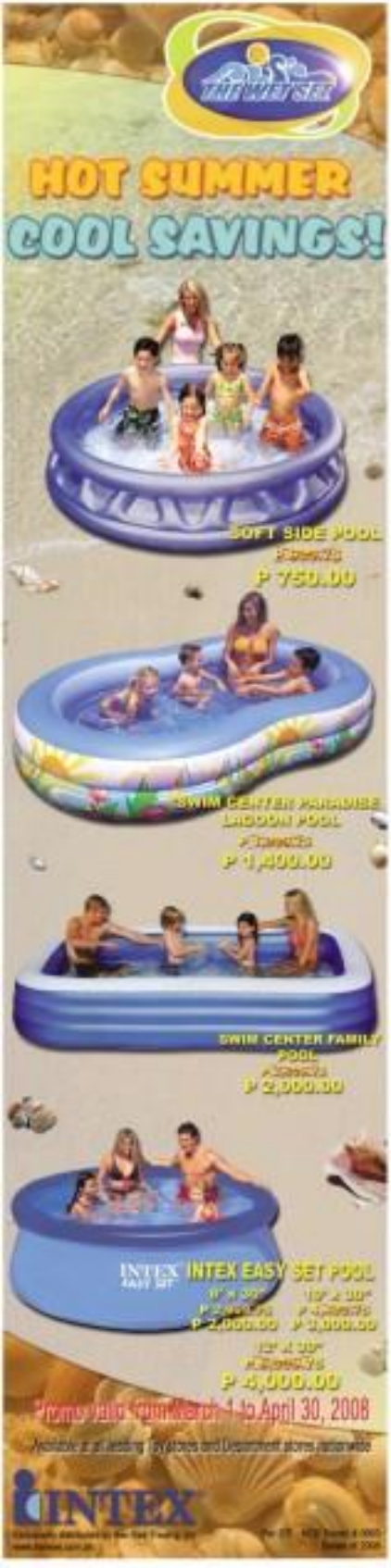
Paolo Valenzuela
Antipolo, Rizal

Recording Artist, Manila Standard

Hobbies & Interest
Toys (action figures) Comic books, Music

Geoff Figueroa
Artist

Hobbies & Interest
Playing Ultimate Frisbee, watching TV (Discovery & Lifestyle) and eating



Pulling strings. Cecil Lisud with the Pandapuan Virtuosi

Music saving music

Intex makes a splash in the Philippines

Intex brings exciting new options to make a splash out of your summer. The American brand of premier above ground pools and inflatables introduces a wide range of products for the entire family to enjoy at very affordable prices.

Cool Pools

Intex's **Rectangular Ultra Frame** Pool Set revolutionizes the traditional concept of above ground pools. At 16' (L) x 8' (W), this 3.5-foot deep structure is perfect for taking a dip and playing water activities. Its modern rectangular design combined with top-quality materials make it the coolest pool to fit in your yard. The ultra frames are powder coated and galvanized to resist rust and corrosion, while the three-ply PVC super tough-liners ensure durability.

All edges are rounded and smooth for child safety. Numerous support legs around the pool keep its weight evenly distributed while strong plastic metal bars lock pins keep all the metal joints locked firmly in place.

This pool is available at selected Handyman stores at P86,999.75, but comes at a special discounted rate of only P66,000.00 from March 1-May 31, 2008.

Quick and simple to set up, two people can put the **Rectangular Ultra Frame Pool Set** together in less than an hour. It comes with a 110 GAL filter pump with a free backflow valve added to the pack, a ladder, ground cloth, pool cover, deluxe maintenance kit including a surface skimmer and an instructional DVD. A volleyball set is included.

For classic beauty at a great value, the **Metal Frame Pool Set** sits at a diameter of 10' x 3.5' (H) and is available at selected stores for only P52,000.00 from the original price of P59,999.75 until May 31, 2008. Made of the highest quality, child-safe materials, this pool is the ideal type to take a relaxing dip in. It comes with a pool maintenance kit. A 15' diameter x 3' version is also available at only P35,000.00 from the original amount of P34,999.75.

Intex also has a wide selection of fun and colorful kiddie pools, floats and accessories for children from one year old and up, available at leading department stores nationwide.

Easy wading with Intex pools

When the summer months hit, don't you just want to lounge around in the water all day long? If you don't have a swimming pool in your backyard to do so, Intex has an Easy solution for you: introducing the **Easy Set Pool**, the ideal wading pool for smaller yards. Compact and perfect for small families with very young children, it measures only eight feet in circumference and 30 inches in depth.

In fact, everything about this pools is easy: You can carry it home, and assemble or disassemble it in a matter of minutes. It's also easy on the budget, costing as little as P2,000.00, from its original price of P3,999.75*. It also comes with DVD to show you how to set it up.

The Easy Set Pool comes in other sizes as well: 10' x 30" (at only P3,000.00* discounted from the original price of P4,499.75*) and 12' x 30" (at only P4,000.00 from the original price of P5,999.75*). All models are **available at Rowe special prices** in leading department stores nationwide until April 30, 2008 only.

*All prices are inclusive of 12% VAT. For more information, call Intex Philippines at 687-0000 or visit www.intex.com.ph

By Cheryll E. Garvet

WHEN A MAJOR MUSICal organization known for fostering continuity of its craft teams up with a music icon who is equally committed to making a difference, it's a powerful recipe for change. Last March 16, in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Cecil Lisud, the internationally acclaimed classical guitarist, performed with the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band and Pandapuan Virtuosi. The collaboration made classical music sound pretty cool as the very young and the seasoned harmoniously melded Mozart, Beethoven and Vivaldi.

Unfortunately, pieces of music for the uninitiated to listen to classical music tend to feel boring, placed by the working class who suppose themselves through stipends or gifts from members of the aristocracy. In his time, Beethoven was also the rock songstar with the attitude and prophets to match.

Cecil Lisud is no a class of his own. His super skills were honed at the age of seven, when her mother wanted teaching her the piano. In grade school, she was the lead guitarist at the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the protégé of Ramon Pascual. At the age of twelve, Lisud went to the United States of America where she studied at the Curtis Institute of Music under Maestro Jaime Bosch and Aaron Copland. Later she studied Segovia, Ponce and Rodrigo Turkish, receiving the award for most outstanding student. In 1981, Lisud gained international attention when she became the first musician in a decade to win the prestigious Leventritt Gold Medal. Lisud has performed to revival in almost every state and in the world.

The Pasig Musicians Development Organization along with the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band gives underprivileged youth access not only the chance to embrace their musical talents but they also provide avenues for extensive performance in schools, malls and parks. **Pandapuan Virtuosi**, on the other hand, is a unique children's ensemble composed of the cream of the crop of talent in the Central String Program of CAIA San Miguel, a community-based arts center in a fishing village in Zambales.

Describing the concert angles as inspiring in an understatement, Irene M. Ramos, chair of the Pasig Musicians Development Organization shrieks away light on this assumption giving advice. "Apart from being internationally well-known, Miss Lisud is the consummate musician willing to risk much for the success of music, to the concert process, the young artists in the orchestra learned not only about the world's cold, but necessary technique of a professional but also the creative problem solving that has to happen for the music to ring true. Some 40 years ago, Miss Lisud played in a 7 year old soloist with a children's orchestra. She was honored to work with one, even if only to be witness to and inspect the fearlessness of their approach to difficult music. As a result, she succeeded in inspiring not only the orchestra members in always play their very best, but also some members of the audience in a genuine practicing heart."

After hearing Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons Concerto played, I knew I was in the presence of genuine talent. One can only gape in disbelief at Pandapuan Virtuosi's 7 year old Julian Dupia creating such passions out of his violin. There kids not only love music but they live and breathe it. And this feverish enthusiasm is incredibly infectious. If you close your eyes and listen carefully and hard, you can transport yourself to one of France's famous drinking parties at the height of the Baroque period.

With the 20-minutes break over, the grand piano was brought out and everyone held their breath until Lisud's small frame hit the minute pianoice seated herself in front of the piano. The maintenance was palpable as the audience amazed their ears and the performers straightened their backs and prepared for the musical journey. Beautiful music floated from the piano, the different wind and string instruments. Now it becomes clear why they say that listeners and performers of classical music are those who understand complexities, history and not facts.

Apart from musical appreciation, what does it the ultimate goal of this concert? These concerts are proof that gentle, heavens forbidden, are accessible with discipline, time and love and schools. These children, suburban they end up as professional musicians or not, will be well equipped with all the skills required of a good citizen. I cannot believe in a generation of partner Barney fans that can still care to continue its good works. Children helping other children are yet another aspect of this whole dynamic that adults could learn from," says Irene Asuncion.

Young classics. Cecil Lisud flanked by the PYSB.

SANDY SURPRISE. Siquijor Beach

PIGGY BANK TRAVELS

Tripping outside the box

By Ruby de Vera

FOR A COUNTRY COMPOSED of 7,107 islands, the Philippines will always have other beaches aside from the more popular destinations of Boracay and Palawan.

The City of Dumaguete and the island of Siquijor in Negros Oriental are slowly gaining attention from the beach lovers and travel bugs. Just in spite of the steady influx of tourists these past few years the two places are still not oppressed enough, in my opinion.

Sorcerer's Land

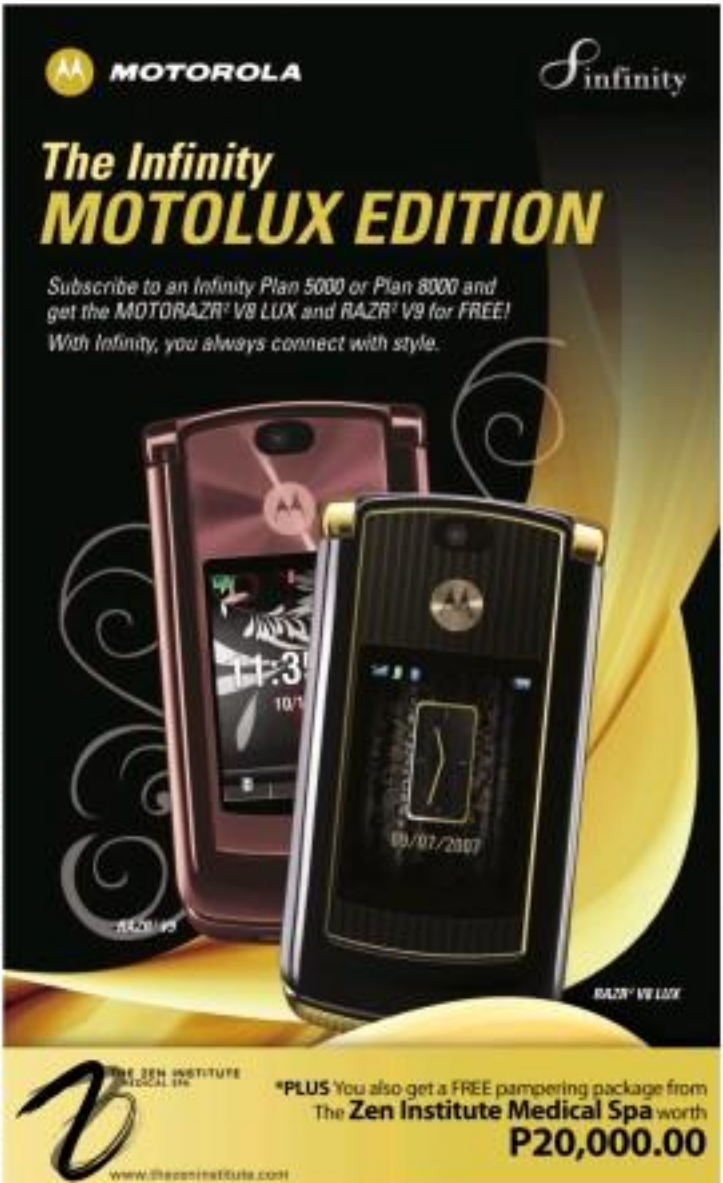
Siquijor has long been known as a sorcerer's land, and perhaps this reputation serves as a double-edged sword for the island. On one hand the island is still pristine and free from the tourist traps, on the other hand, more tourists would mean more income for the residents.

Siquijor is roughly a 45-minute boat ride from Dumaguete. You don't have to worry if a boat just left, there's a trip almost every hour with about three major ferry operators.

We ditched the more touristy route of staying in San Juan where the shiny resorts can be found, and instead stayed at the Nonoroguis Dream Resort in Siquijor town, whose owner and resident chef worked and lived in Norway for 20 years. It

TURN PAGE E3

GRANDFATHER tree



A diario nuevo by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AYETTRA

A. LIPIN — BY JOSE ABREA

PAGAD DADDY — BY TITI JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

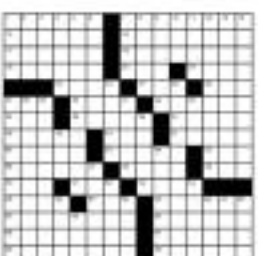
ATSING AND WEBBY — BY LYN DACOLLADO

LOVEWHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

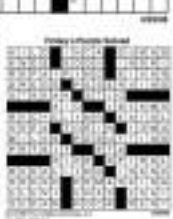
BIKO PINOYBIKE — BY FREDDY ALBERIA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Joseph Stewart
Scranton, PA



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTS SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	5			9				
3					2		5	
			6	7				
		5	3				1	
6		9				3		7
	8				4	6		
				5	6			
	1		4					9
				3			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	2
1	8	6	2	4	9	7	5	3
9	2	7	5	3	1	8	6	4
8	4	5	1	2	3	9	7	6
2	9	1	6	8	7	4	3	5
7	6	3	9	5	4	2	1	8
3	7	2	4	1	5	6	8	9
4	5	9	7	6	8	3	2	1
6	1	8	3	9	2	5	4	7

From page E1

was a stand at 900 pesos for a mini-shaving room, and the food was delicious.

The island is small—we were told that we could actually go around the perimeter in less than two hours. We took the challenge and hired a tricycle for the day to take us around.

First stop is the century-old enchanted Balete tree, and it was indeed huge. The pool below it, which they said used to be a fish pond, is now empty. Some students were eating their lunch in the shade, keeping the tree company.

We proceeded to the St. Isidore Labrador+s Church and Convent in the town of Lazi, built in the late 1680+s. Both are declared National Historical Shrines by the government. I didn+t enter the church since there was a huge drawing of a large swearing sky earth for the day and it had a big E in it, so I got the message and went to the convent building.

The convent is a massive bulk of stone, which now houses the parish office, the church museum and a school. The museum display consists of antique church artifacts, garments, religious icons and paintings.

From Lazi we went to Cambagahay Falls, great for family picnics and swimming. From the main road we had to climb down rather steep stairs to get to the falls. I didn+t enjoy the climb up though; we had to take several breaks to catch our breath.

The beaches found in San Juan and Salagdoong can give Boracay+s beaches a run for its money, with its powdery white sand and clear blue waters. The resort staff advised us to go to the beach in Salagdoong, where the beach is calmer and there are less people.

When we got to Salagdoong, sure enough we were the only people there except for the resort staff. The water was perfect; it was up to my chest already and I can+t tell on my feet!

If this is the magic of the island they+re talking about, then I+m forever enchanted.

Sunset Boulevard

I managed to a quaint city with the old-st Spanish-style houses standing their ground (pun intended). Sensor, newer

TURN TO E1

Condo living… Trevi style

Experience an attention to style and aesthetics rarely available in condominiums, all at a substantially affordable investment. Launches of Trevi Towers offers a wide variety of exciting styles and options to match your needs. Condominium home designs include everything from single bedroom unit to two bedroom units.

An inner city mixed-used condominium development located in Pasong Tamo, Makati City, Trevi is a 3-tower project with commercial spaces from ground to 5th floor at Trevi Tower 3 and five levels of parking available at Towers 1 and 2. Situated near major thoroughfares, it is easily accessible from the north and south via the South Superhighway and from east to west via Pasay Road. Within short distance to Greenbelt, Makati CBD, Don Bosco Technical Institute and Makati Cinema Square.

Conceived and developed by Camella Homes, a proud member of the Philippines' largest homebuilder Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc., the Launches of Trevi Towers adopt the primary concept of ENERGY EFFICIENT DESIGN in a development that provides all the necessities in a typical urban lifestyle. It is a unique condominium development that harnesses the wind to ensure natural ventilation all year round.

For people who spend most of their time outside than at home, condominium living is more than practical. It is the perfect choice. Aside from the benefits of affordability, low downpayment, and easy payment plans, living in a condo requires no maintenance or upkeep. The landscaping and other repairs are taken cared of. This is helpful for those with busy schedules, a lot of times people do not have the time and energy to do maintenance work.

Living at Trevi is much like living in a home within a community with the convenience of living in a city apartment; you are typically paying to rent. A carefree condominium living at Trevi provides high security, rooftop patios with city skyline views, promenades, children's playground, swimming pools, al fresco areas and a community garden with lush landscaping and immediate access to the finest entertainment, restaurants, shopping, sports venues, major marketplaces and the hippest lifestyle.

For more information on how to reserve your unit at Trevi, please call 496-2421 or 381-1248. Or visit our website www.camella.com.ph

Ascend-tion to Detail

From page E9

crawl through an adjoining sliding door (within the restaurant) can easily fit around 300 bobbing heads. And they should be bobbing. The Club is equipped, they claim, with soothing less than the "Lamborghini of sound systems"—the Immersion 6 sound system from the DIG Pandora One. So you can always expect seamless, hi-fi dance beats free of distortion.

The lighting system also features Highlite media spots, scanners and laser beams. This hi-tech lighting system puts Ascend as par with world-class dance clubs in the US and Europe.

Such details may be lost on the artsy-fartsy animal more concerned with replenishing the drink in his hand or admiring the cloud over the eye candy in his line of sight. But on a wild night when alcohol levels have a tendency to pierce your eardrums and turn you deaf, you'll definitely appreciate the sonic merits of Ascend's state-of-the-art sound system.

Reach for the Skys!

Nestled at the pinnacle of the two-story building is Sky+s, a sleek retro and avant-alone cocktail lounge for the club's so-called 'dry' (non-alcoholic) partygoers. This is the place to be if you have cash to burn, or better yet, the connections to abuse.

With its own DJ deck, open-air balcony overlooking High Street, high-definition LCD TV panels, and a sweeping terrace of tinted glass that hovers over the main dancefloor below, Sky+s is truly VIP—very intimate and exclusive, that is.

The card-carrying members of this velvet-roped room should consider themselves lucky. They are only get bottle service and the undivided attention of the bartenders, the waiters—small coaches here and there—are also quite amazing. When you+re not preoccupied with the dizzying cuteness of your waistline to or the dismal count of the couch you+re lounging in, take some time to admire the sculptural art of the martini glass chandeliers above you.

As the luxurious story of Ascend, the devil was definitely in the details. But by the looks of it, the design gods truly had a moment of divine intervention.

Ascend is located at Qualities 4, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Visit www.clubascend.com.

acer

FOCUS ON IMPACT

Enjoy visibly impressive images like never before!

Get a FREE Pioneer DV-300-S Slim Format DVD Player for every purchase of any featured Acer DLP Projector, from February 20 - March 31, 2008 and take great pleasure in finely-tuning great entertainment experience with Acer's revolutionary technology and innovation right in the comfort of your home.

Hurry! Promo is valid from April 15, 2008

DLP

Acer X1160

Acer P1100

Acer P1100E

FREE Pioneer DV-300-S Slim Format DVD Player

Pioneer

0% interest on selected Acer products

CRAWLING after at the Don Bosco Youth Center

ROCKY ROADS. Scenic entrance to Malolos

Text and Photos by Katrina R. Holguera

STICK. TRAPPED. BLOCKED. Disconnected. These are words that formed part of my daily dictionary. Active as I was on the outside, inside I was feeling lethargic, and going through the motions of life on automatic pilot. I had ritual conferences to clear me head of a thousand worries—but they just wouldn't shut up. Even my outward movements felt mechanic, weak in the knees. Reading quiet time was a skill I did not possess. An inner dispossession led me to an old acquaintance (on recommendation of a mutual nephew) to Kalipimu. Kali what? Kalipimu, without delving into details (since you can Google it or go to www.kalipimu.com yourself), it was explained to me as an ancient healing ritual indigenous to pre-colonial Philippines—practiced by tribal shamans, the baylan (male) and the babaylan (female). They were the soul "doctors" before Christianity was brought (some say "forced") upon us with the arrival of the Spaniards.

Feel it to believe it

But describing the power of this healing ritual in words is unjust. Experiencing it is the only way to go, so in this case, Bea, I was simply ordered to sit down and close my eyes. I felt light touches on various parts of my body and later on were slowly and seemingly rhythmed with gentle strokes and pulls. Part of me thought, "Ok, feels nice, but ..." and my mind started to drift off, to the usual todo's of what I did that day, what I was going to do later ... etc. etc. The being around continued and at some point I found myself lying down on my back, eyes still closed, taking in the sounds that were being played and trying desperately not to think about anything else but stay in the moment. I decided to just let my liberal flutist his work and I would politely just lie still until the session was over.

The tipping point

My friend stopped physical contact with me and moved a short distance away. My hands started to tremble, and look—it was a regular bout all on their own. My arms pleated fiercely on the floor, started to sway to my blood directions left, right, round, up, down. At this point I should have freaked out, but I didn't. I was mesmerized, fascinated (more with my own self-absorb) by the flow, by the loss of control which was still, oddly enough, controlled. I felt little snaps of electricity traveling from my elbows to the tips of my fingers, as if something was slowly being released into the world and beyond. The trembling and shaking continued and this time, the voices in my head did shut up and my mind flew free. There was a lightness I felt, although I was still very connected to my body. All I could comprehend in this in-between state was that something had opened up within that allowed me to see new, another dimension of myself, one that acknowledged an inner life force that had long been dormant. My body continued to move on its own and as I leaned my head to one side my eyelids opened slightly and I "saw" something very new at moment, dressed in what seemed to be native American garb. Her expression was one of observation. There was nothing abusive about her presence, she just seemed to belong there. Minutes later I leaned a voice in my ear welcoming me back to the present. I felt that night

KPO HIKING. The peak of Mt. Apo

HEALING WATERS. Cleanse from cold, warm and hot

INTERIORITY COMPLEX

Kalipimu: Move with Spirit

FREEDOM MOVEMENT. Inner dancers in their element

SULFUR SPA. Steamy waters all around

feeling like I had definitely found something. "The positive is a positive one," my friend explained, "all you need to do find optimal and you can continue this on your own." That night, alone and tulog in my bed, I plugged in my iPod, closed my eyes and was taken over by movement once more.

Level Up

A month passes and I find myself on a plane to Davao, and greeted by the airport by Fe Villaruz—who I will thereby forthwith as the moving force behind the awareness and expansion of Kalipimu and its benefits. I was going to spend the Easter weekend at Kai Sotto, in the Don Bosco Youth Camp in Malolos, South Cotabato. For the next three days, I was going to immerse myself in all the healing qualities that this luscious land has to offer. First was release, the Hoola, past life sessions, trance, hunt that were contained in my subconscious. The movements that took over my body were sometimes violent in their force and speed, but they never once caused any injury nor any fear in me, it was almost like I welcomed the spasms, the coughs that escaped from my throat and, on one occasion, tears. In the midst of one of my almost cathartic states, I had images of all the people in my present life who had hurt me and or were flawed I found myself addressing each of them saying, "I'm sorry, I'm so, so sorry." Yes, it was a reverse, instead of forgiving I was the one asking for it instead. That particular session left me with a rather deep sense of emptiness, and as it was performed on a rock overlooking a beautiful flowing river, I rushed up into a fetal position and followed the Universe to cuddle me once more, so vulnerable, and yet open to what was around me. The key was, I was no longer caught up in the past, it was a giant, giant leap for me as I came to understand how on during my stay. We are reigned and, so that we may change what fills us, what makes us, and what moves us.

Part of this immersion was also awesome, from the poetry of nature. Our party hiked, swam, took in the icy cold and warm waters offered by the mountains, natural heated pools and the cleansing benefits of something clean as mud drinking broth. Morning sports. I felt like a child again, there were no "no's" involved to anything I did as I explored what was around me and what was within me. By the end of the weekend, I had even learned the healing art of massage through Kalipimu, freeing this heightened state of consciousness so each you can artistic marker's new life force to massage point, both physical and emotional to touch. You become sensitive to energy that sometimes you don't even need to look where to place your hand, you are guided to it instinctively.

Everyone Can Heal

To think that Kalipimu is no mind fix it a huge mistake, it is part of a process, one that is designed for you to dig deeper and deeper, and you realize how much you were forced repressed when the rigidity of established took over the free spirit you possessed as a child. We all have urban and pains, but the ones we suppress are the most difficult to heal. Kalipimu is like a mostly needed hug to a wound, however a broken soul. There is an almost natural soothing that takes place, but it doesn't make all that pain or past issues go away it takes practice, and sincerity. When it is later combined with an intention to heal, it may be used to free others from their own issues. It can heal known to non-physical ailments, enhance creativity and more importantly (as in my case) feel connected again. Visualization if you've been on the receiving end of an session headengon I energized others in a state of trance dance release. This could probably take you one step closer to the person you were meant to become.

For any experience is the same, to encounter of the spirit at this level is different for everyone, and it definitely for everyone.

A three-day Inner Dance convergence in Malolos, South Cotabato will occur on May 8-11. For more details call or text: 0919-2334153 and 0916-4746819.

Special Thanks to Betsy Seriale of the Don Bosco Youth Compound for staff.

Triple Bora treat

A Japanese feast, killer pasta and a poolside paradise—three more reasons to go to Boracay this summer, as if you needed them

By Pam Pastor
Photos by JR Lojano

TO TRUE BEACH LOVERS, Bora will never become boring. There's always something happening, something new to try, something different to explore. We found three new reasons for you to hit our favorite island this summer—as if you needed them.

BEEF tokoyaki

OYSTER

Nama

One of Boracay's newest restaurants, Nama serves authentic Japanese fare for the beach bum who loves sushi.

Why go: The food is really good. Unagi maki (₱288), wagyu beef gyoza (₱350), veg udon (gyuu ₱130), wagyu strip steak (₱600), dessert: tempura, ramen, udon, soba, shabu shabu—Nama is no extension but you'll have a hard time narrowing your choices down.

Plead it is... on a day you want to have a long, leisurely meal. Enjoy the different sours (ie., Sour) on the elaborate, reserved traditional Japanese green tea house (₱80), enjoy the sound (chef Japanese soup) and order the kani salad with sesame dressing (₱170), it's a change from the usual kani salad that is drowning in Japanese-style. As for the main course, you're spoilt for choice. For dessert, have the bamboo jelly (chilled soy milk topped with mango and ice), ₱95.

Try the ... ebi tempura (₱525), it was very fresh. The seared tuna tataki (₱350), a beef tataki made from Japanese wagyu and on the kani salad with sesame dressing (₱170), it's a change from the usual kani salad that is drowning in Japanese-style. As for the main course, you're spoilt for choice. For dessert, have the bamboo jelly (chilled soy milk topped with mango and ice), ₱95.

Bring... your family or a big group of friends. Nama's servings are generous—they are good for sharing.

SUSHI at Japanese Food at Nama

EBI TEMPURA

OSHIN

SEARED tuna tataki

Unagi maki

RAINBOW

TOFU tokoyaki

SHIJALATA di casanova

PROSCIUTTO e mango

INSALATA di arugula

BOTTOLINO gondola

Aria

More than just a pizza stop, Aria is home to mouth-watering pasta and other Italian treats. Aria is a must-visit for most Bora lovers.

Why go: Because you can't survive on chicken tinolang and tuktakan alone. We love them as much as you do—but you need to sit down for a good, filling meal (no, noncebar you've got the time).

Pencil it in ... on a day that you're really hungry. Maybe after you spend hours skimboarding or kite-surfing.

TAGLIATELLE con salsa verde

Try the ... pasta. We loved the tortelli con salmone e verde (for kale pasta with five-wagyu smoked salmon and caviar - P350) and the tagliatelle con tartufo, asparagi e prosciutto di parma (homemade tagliatelle with white truffle, asparagus and parma ham). Enjoy Aria's pizza in a different way with the calzone (pizza roll stuffed with romaine pecorino, salami, gorgonzola, leeks and mozzarella - P410). Other beef-eaters and palate pleasers include the carpaccio di salmone e capperi (smoked salmon carpaccio with capers and oregano - P350), the prosciutto e mango (parma ham e mango) or ripe mango - P350) what is surprisingly delightful), leafy experience, the polpo con verdure e fagioli (arugula, fresh tender tail (it is served with salsa verde - P525) and the pizza napoletana (fresh tomato, artichoke, farmer's ham, mushroom, kalamata olives and mozzarella - P350). End your meal with the panna cotta al caramello (cream custard with caramel - P180).

Bring... friends who wouldn't mind carbo-loading. Your waistline won't survive this unscathed. Or fine. If your friends are counting their calories, they can enjoy the salads—the insalata di pomodoro, tricolore pesoti (organic arugula with watermelon and pine nuts in a balsamic vinaigrette dressing - P480) and insalata di cetriolo (salad of cucumbers, pistachio, tomato and cheese - P310) are a treat.

PASTA and pizza paradise

PANNA cotta al caramello

CARPACCIO di salmone e capperi

RAVIOLI con salmone e verde

Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Convention Center

Why go: Because Boracay Regency offers the best of both worlds—it's right on the beach so you can spend as much time on the sand as you want but it also has three pools (and beautiful ones at that) where you can lounge around if you feel like taking shelter from the crazy summer crowd. The garden wing, which is Boracay Regency newest wing, has a huge pool with a jacuzzi and a floating bar (perfect for lounging in).

The rooms (the resort has 286 of them) are spacious—try to get one with a balcony and a hot tub.

Try the ... different restaurants and bars—there's Prince Hamlet (which offers dinner and breakfast buffet), Gold Chateau, Regency Food Plaza, MCP Wine Bar and Bubba Gin. Have a few drinks at the floating bar—the margaritas are really good. Watch out for the spa which is set to open later this year.

Bring... a good book so you can read at the poolside, sunstruck because you don't want to get burned, a camera because you will want to take pictures of the pool and friends, because you wouldn't want to get lonely.

BED AND BATH

THE FLOATING BAR

ROOMS with a view

Tripping outside the box

From page E1

buildings and night spots. Walking on some streets, felt like I was in a time warp, then I turn around a corner and see a flatbed jeepney on an insane rush.

Hiland Boulevard, or simply Boulevard, is the most visited place in the city. It's a 700-meter boulevard stallwide lined with hopeworks trees. People just love to hang out there, especially during sunset when the local tricycle vendors bring out their carts and makeshift dining area. Local troubadours will sing their hearts out for some spare change, and while the performances are not record-breaking materials, they definitely entertain.

We stayed at the thatched Iyami Hotels, located right smack in the middle of the Boulevard. I loved the fact that we can simply cross the road to sit on the seawall, buy tempura and coconut on the street.

The Stillmans Township founded in 1903 by Dr. Horace Stevenson Stillman is one of the best and oldest subdivisions in the country. The Stillman Hall, which is built to the ruins, is currently being used as a museum for archaeological artifacts. There are several campuses, the most popular and iconic being the one facing the Boulevard.

Being city people we naturally looked for a place where we can down a few beers and enjoy some music. Friends recommended the Hacienda Bar and Restaurant, an open air venue located along the North National Highway. Unfortunately even reggae night and apparently popular as it was packed with young people dancing to Kundiman music. Their Sinigang Special prawn is a must-try and best to share.

The next day we take a tricycle to the Dawn Inn terminal bound for Mainampay port, the jump-off point to Apo Island. Actually we knew how the Mainampay signboard, just ask the dispatcher which bus leaves first, because all routes will pass Mainampay anyway.

In Mainampay port, we had an option of **WHERE'S LEE?** Sulipalaneng Beach

LAZI Church

ROCK ON. The formations

FEELING lucky at Cambugahay Falls

renting a whole boat on Apo Island for P2,000 for the whole day, but since there were only the two of us we took the cooperative-run boat for P250 per passenger. The catch is we had to wait for other passengers, because there is only one trip in the morning which usually leaves at 8 a.m. We caught the same boat back which left Apo Island at 3 p.m.

The boat ride from Mainampay to Apo Island takes about 20 minutes. Upon arriving on the island, we paid P1,00 for the visitor's fee upon registration and P50 for snorkeling in the reef. Although there is an exclusive resort on the island, the reef is operated by the government. We did not bring any gear with us, as we had access life vests and snorkeling equipment.

The coral reef and marine life was impressive; we didn't have to swim too far out to see the colorful fishes and different coral species. There were a few cottages along the shore and the rangers manned our reef while we were snorkeling. There was a small building that serves as a public high school extension for the students in the island.

For a change in atmosphere, our last day was spent at the Bahura Beach Resort in Dumi, just 25 minutes away from Dumaguete City. It's supposedly a great dive spot like Apo Island, but since we don't dive we just enjoyed their huge pool and their seafood buffet.

Gentle People

We consider ourselves lucky to have been able to experience Siquijor and Dumaguete. Before we left some people were doubtful about our decision to spend our precious vacation time there, but we never regretted one second of our trip.

Aside from the beautiful places, I can't remember a single time when someone was rude to us, and if there were it was just another tourist. Whether they were resort or hotel staff, or just a random person off the street, people were always hospitable and never seemed annoyed that we make them repeat the directions they just patiently directing.

I would like to go back someday to sit on the boulevard at sunset and eat tempura, and to see again the friends we've made in our short stay on this wonderful place.

SPACE INVADERS

Ascend-tion to Detail

By Paolo R. Reyes

The design gods don't always work in mysterious ways, even if the devil was in the details

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE year, the heavens parted as an opera field of Fort Bonifacio, sharply illuminating a modern corporate structure covered in darkness. Then there was Ascend, and the party-loving citizens of the city were pleased with what they saw.

Designed by top architectural firm UP Planta & Associates, along with the interior design team of Hexagona+Quesada, Ascend Club is a sprawling new drink/dine/dance establishment that promises to "elevate" the nocturnal experience of its patrons as they navigate their way through its three distinct zones: The Lounge, Club, and Skye.

Haute-of the place

Gastronomes should be glad to hear that Chef Rolando Laudico (Bravo Filipino) is the celebrated captain of the Ascend kitchen. For The Lounge, the restaurant located on the second floor, Laudico has deftly designed a distinct east-meets-west menu sure to please the palates of even the most discriminating diners.

The pan-Asian dishes bring together, in true Laudico style, a collision of culinary cultures. Under his capable hands, what initially seemed like an incongruous clash of tastes turned out to be, well, a wonderful celebration of new and familiar flavors.

For appetizers, go for the Asian Pyramid Extravaganza featuring US Certified Angus beef meatballs with sautéed homemade sweet and Crispy Surf'n Turf Dumplings (prawn and pork dumplings drizzled with a ginger-soy syrup). The soup menu boasts of Seafood Tanaman Tomato soup, Japanese Curry Squash and Coconut Chicken Hamon, which is specially prepared with free-range chicken broth, coconut milk, Hamon puree and Basil puree. For the main course, you can choose between Grilled US Angus Rib Eye served with Pinot Wine Mini-Steak, Slow-Braised Duck, Seared Grecian Salmon, Fish in Papillote and Chili-Garlic Prawns in Coconut Tom Yum Sauce. All were, as expected, excellent examples of Asian nouvelle cuisine.

Aside from being the culinary heart of the club, The Lounge also serves as the main bar, with its own themed nights and signature cocktails. It has its own separate sound system and DJ, spinning hip, mellow tracks at an easy-listening level. The modern interiors are sleek, with a feel that seems to go on forever. The long center table is a sight to behold with its high back chairs arranged by height, obviously emphasizing the "ascend" motif of the entire establishment.

Club at first sight

By the looks of it, the main Club (which can also be accessed from the lobby) is a

LOUNGE AND PROUD: Enjoy pan-Asian dishes by chef Rolando Laudico at The Lounge

LET THERE BE LIGHT: Two floors of nocturnal euphoria

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ● Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

RYAN Phillippe (left) plays a devoured Iraq war hero who returns to his Texas hometown and tries to give moral support to his wartime buddy portrayed by Channing Tatum in the drama, "Stop-Loss."

Ryan Phillippe on his post-Reese Witherspoon life

LOS ANGELES—One doesn't have to look further than Ryan Phillippe's series to see signs of his devotion to Ava and Deacon, his kids with ex-wife Reese Witherspoon.

In a recent press conference for the Oscar-nominated film, when a reporter asked about the heroines made of rubber bands on his arms, Ryan proudly said, "The one's from my daughter. This one from a gift package that my son gave me. Sometimes they make those friendship bracelets in a camp. Those bracelets are meant to be worn until they fall off. I've had two of them recently fall off but I usually keep something on me that as a way keeps my kids close to me."

Separation

Denial talks that he dated the likes of Britney Spears and Ashlee Simpson since his much-publicized separation from Reese, Ryan replied this way when he was asked about his dating prospects: "When you're kind of human, dating is really bizarre because you're not meant to have a first date but there's paparazzi outside. Right now, I say I'm dating my 8-year-old and 4-year-old. That's who I spend my nights on the couch with. We watch movies. All that stuff will come (later). I am writing, [screenplays] and doing more work. And I have films in pre-prod. I'll take it as it comes."

Ryan, who stars in "Stop-Loss," a drama about American soldiers home from the Iraq war, confessed that he does have unfamiliar instincts now in gauging the character of the dates.

"Absolutely," he said. "You will always wonder about that and it's such a strange thing because some people do have those bizarre motivations. Some people would want to be with you to get famous or because of the money you might have.

"I've been around for this business long enough to see through that stuff pretty quickly. It doesn't take too long. I feel like because of [how] who can look people in the eye and know right away pretty much who they are. I think we all have that instinct, whether we listen to it or not."

The actor insisted that, since he spends a lot of time with his kids, his world nine days is "about Hannah Montana and SpongeBob."

"It gets better to me as I get older because your relationships get deeper and complicated," he said of his bond with Ava and Deacon. Of Ava (named after Ava Gardner, who had an affair with Frank Sinatra, Ryan's favorite singer), he gushed, "I think I'm really good. That way as a parent is having that openness exist, where she can talk about things. She's such a smart and mature little girl that we can talk politics. She knows who's running for President and she asks me why I support who I do. She's incredibly familiar with all that stuff. That's exciting for me."

Decision

With a grin, he revealed, "We're very bipartisan. I think her mother supports Hillary [Clinton] and I support Obama's Obama. Luckily, Ava doesn't vote yet so she doesn't have to make a decision."

Of Deacon, he said, "Now that he's 4, my son's personality is taking shape. He's the funniest little dude."

"I guess the selfish part of being a father is the symphony escape that your kids can provide," he continued. "When people are saying terrible things about you, the guy in me then, the [expletive] are following you, you have three commitments to do outside things that aren't your favorite activities, like a 10-hour press day, and I feel like I have no energy left, I just want to be mom.

"But I get home with the kids and start cooking dinner. We get on the couch and watch 'Nancy Drew.' I forget about everything and the headache goes away from speaking and hearing myself talk all day. There's something within us that has our kids give our presence and we end up giving them a lot more in return. That's the best part of it." AMA/AFP

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Kathleen Y. Ngonlinlin

PHILLIPPE, the Britney Spears-or-Ashlee Simpson-he-kissed-first-after-Reese Witherspoon's-as claimed, "I'm dating my 8-year-old and 4-year-old. That's who I spend my nights on the couch with. We watch movies."

UPCAT REVIEW
also for ATENEO DE LA SALLE UST&OTHER COLLEGES
DELIMAN ACCESS
Call us! 7475206 * 09209691729

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL 898-1400(R)
STEP UP 2 THE MIZ
HORTON HEARS A WHO
HORTON HEARS A WHO
OVER HER DEAD BODY
FOOL'S GOLD
FOOL'S GOLD
MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA

movietime

visit www.smcinema.com • powered by yehey.com

TIME	APRIL 1 (TUES)	APRIL 2 (WED)	APRIL 3 (THU)	TIME	APRIL 4 (FRI)	APRIL 5 (SAT)	APRIL 6 (SUN)	APRIL 7 (MON)	APRIL 8 (TUE)
5:30 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	5:30 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	7:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8:30 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	8:30 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	10:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

METRO MANILA

IMAX

THE PODIUM

LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

VV&W is all hype! Abbie Cornish and Ryan Phillippe review in "Stop-Loss," the movie where the two reportedly (hopefully not) sparked the rumors of an affair that reportedly triggered the actor's separation from Reese.

Ryan Phillippe . . .

From page F1

my life."

Ryan, whose breakthrough role in the soap "One Life to Live" is unmentionable because it was daytime TV's first openly gay male teen, has had the good fortune of being directed by some of cinema's accomplished directors: Clint Eastwood ("Flags of Our Fathers"), the late Robert Altman ("Cookie's Fortune") and Oliver Stone ("U-turn"). "Stop-Loss," which dramatizes the US army's policy of involuntary extension of the soldiers' enlistment contract, is director Kimberly Peirce's long-awaited follow-up to her first film, "Boys Don't Cry," which won Hilary Swank her first Best Actress Oscar. Ryan continues his growth as an actor in his portrayal of a decorated Iraq war vet whose adjustment to life back in America is interrupted when he is called back to active duty. Others in the cast are Abbie Cornish (Ellie in the movie where she and Ryan met and sparked the rumors of an affair that reportedly triggered his separation from Reese), Channing Tatum and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

Preparation

Asked to compare the worries harbored with Peirce, Spun answered, "Eastwood has no desire for you to rehearse. He expects you to do whatever preparation you do on your own. He doesn't really need to know about it. When it comes to shooting the movie, he just kind of says, 'Go over there and do it.'"

But in Ryan's case, Spun said, "She wants to sit there and take apart word for word and every beat and get to know the story through each scene with you. She wants to be right next to the camera. She has many takes. The job of an actor is to submit yourself to the filmmaker's process. You're there to help their vision, not your own; you don't have to be flexible. I like both styles. I like the fact that Robert Altman and Eastwood would say 'You go do your job—surprise me.' Oliver Stone, maybe because she's younger and still figuring things out, a very thorough in her approach."

Film student

"I've made myself very much a filmmaker in my entire career," he understated. "I remember, working on 'Gosford Park' Altman treated that I sat next to him every day during rehearsals and the of climate film school. You could spend eight years in the film program at USC [University of Southern California] and never learn as that direct information."

Asked about his future plans, Ryan replied, "I don't have any specific design on what I want in regard to my relationship and work. I'm figuring it out. That will keep me young in many ways—the fact that I don't have a definite set of the map. I mean, I'm a director. I have a lot to say. I also want to care about the future, take me."

E-mail the columnist at ... Snapshot: SMFilms Announces and read his blog, "The Snapshot Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/thesnapshotreport.

The 'saint' instigates a duel in the sun

JONES: Scores of surprising transformations.

By Bebe Cervantes

JENNIFER JONES (BROWN WORLD-wide television talent, she won the Academy Award for her portrayal of Saint Bernadette in the biographical "Song of Bernadette." The young actress was acclaimed as one of Hollywood's brightest young stars as a result of that performance.

She was very pretty and ambitious, besides. She was also married to handsome producer Robert Walker who married to various Hollywood films and was greatly admired for his natural way of acting. Walker was actually a predecessor of realistic actors like Montgomery Clift who was closely followed by temperamental Marlon Brando and Cleveland James Dean.

Bigger catch

However, Jennifer had set her eyes on a bigger catch than would catapult her career to greater heights. Only Hollywood insiders were on to the fact that the dark-haired Jennifer was already having secret trysts with "Gone With the Wind" producer David O. Selznick. The powerful producer had grand plans for his paramour.

When Jennifer divorced lanky Robert for reason David, sympathy went to the skinny actor who had just finished "I'll the Cloudy Roll By," a grand musical in which he portrayed the beloved composer, Jerome Kern, with MGM's roster of stars making cameo appearances to compose musical numbers.

Here who admired the saintly bernadette were completely turned off by the sultry Jennifer, who was the reason for "A Duel in the Sun." She morphed from a French saint into a Mexican spitfire who stoked the passionate yearnings of Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten. When it became painfully known she was the cause of wreckage a term in real life, the sad saint turned classic once more.

Scandalized

Globally her fans were scandalized by that unvirtuous transition. Especially shocked were country-crossing Filipinos. How could she have betrayed them so? Fortunately, Jennifer's powerful husband continued to produce great films with her as the star. He and himself as her Hollywood Svengali, courting her to such great epics as Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises" opposite Rock Hudson, as well as Scott Fitzgerald's "Tender is the Night" opposite Jason Robards Jr.

The end of her silver bonanza she married in way "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," love remembered for its romantic theme song.

Jennifer's slow decline came after her film is misinformation from saint to trying hard actress. She carried vehicles that were turned for the likes of Barbara Stanwyck and other drama heavyweights.

Drama

Despite her cloying, she never had the glamour or the appeal of the likes of Hayes, Davis or Crawford. Neither was she the great beauty that was Gulbrer Chevalier, Rosa Ramey or Ingrid Bergman.

Despite her dramatic transformation from saint to her outside, she was basically a theatre middleweight who drew brightly but not luminously enough to offset her many co-star performances in dramatic vehicles that didn't encompass the artistic.

Toward the end of her life, however, the Academy Award-winning actress discovered still another talent. She started to paint both in oil and watercolor, and soon had sellout exhibits of her works.

Capsule movie reviews

By Nestor U. Torre

"10,000 BC" IS A PICTURESQUE RE-during of the travails of a tribe of mammoth hunters who are kidnapped to slave labor for the construction of pyramids to honor a man-god who could be an extraterrestrial. —That's a lot of maybe's and what if's, and the "reconstructing" rendering station is crudulity.

One option is to take this movie on its own speculative terms and accept whatever comes out as fairytale/cum-anthropology. After a while, however, its makers' speculative storytelling becomes too muddled to be taken even on seriously.

A certain level of consistency appears to be called for, and this is where this movie falters. Its filmmakers seem to have come out of Central Casting, its resident soothsayer is needly generic in her ritual exercises, and the blue-eyed girl whose abduction takes the tribesmen all the way to the pyramids looks like the quintessential Hollywood starlet. "Apocalypto" went pretty much native in its depiction of territory with greater consistency and veracity.

On the plus side, "10,000 BC" impresses with its unnerving digitized image of mammoths in chaotic flight, gigantic pyramids in the process of construction, "thousands" of slaves being forced to work in within an inch of their lives, monster birds overrunning their victims with their sharp beaks, and a wide range of stunning vistas depicting an age gone by.

Unfortunately, this visual alchemy can't completely make up for the muddled storytelling that hobbles this production.

GOSLING: Plays an unconcerned young man who can socialize only with an inflatable doll.

'Lars and the Real Girl'

Here is pervasive, this film quickly engages our attention when it turns out to be about an otherwise nice young man (Ryan Gosling) who is such a psychological basket case that he can't relate to real people, and thus acquires a girlfriend who turns out to be—an inflatable doll.

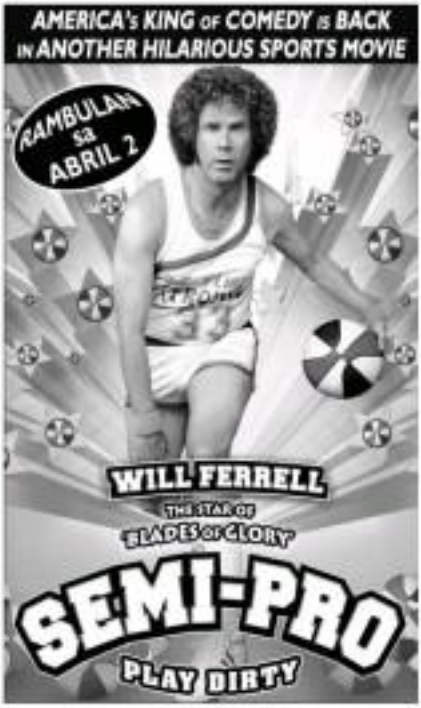
This revelation is a big surprise, but to its eternal credit, the film doesn't exploit it for its obvious shock value. Instead, it uses its protagonist's weird psychological problem as an opportunity to explore how relationships can be taken to extremes without the people involved in them losing their humanity.

This is a difficult film to pull off, as the film is an impressive achievement. In time, its central problem involves not just Lars, but also his brother and sister-in-law, and a really good psychiatrist. The consensus: the people around Lars' patient that they can help him best by not rejecting his fantasy doll girlfriend, but by relating to her as though she were a real person.

Why? Well, she points out that the reason Lars has "fallen" for an inflatable doll is because, at this warped stage of his psychological development, there's the best he can do to not potentially-crazy.

As a result, Lars' circle of "concerned" psychotherapy includes the people in his office—and even his church's congregation! Yes, they all play along and befriend "Bianca," the inflatable doll, so that Lars gets the support he needs.

True enough, the time comes when Lars closely gets over his warped view of life, and needs Bianca less and less. Thematically, what comes through most of all is our need for the people around us not to judge us, but to simply love and help see us through the low points in our lives. That may seem "crazy"—but it makes a whole lot of emotive and empathetic sense!



James Blunt in Manila...

From page F4

vignette revolves around a character who embodies one of those emotions.

In the central story, Fraser plays a gangster who uncovers the humor and frailty in a pop singer in trouble. Here, Whitaker is a banker who is desperately looking for a way out of his stifling daily grind. And Bosco is a doctor in love with his best friend's wife (Enjoy). John Lee directs.

SALVACION: Features P1.8 Cell and Text Combo.

'West Side Story' auditions

Today and tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Stages is auditioning for lead and other talents for its September-October staging of "West Side Story" Christian Bautista plays Tony, the male lead, but all other roles—Maria, Anita, Riff, Bernardo, etc.—are open. Auditions are for singers and dancers 17-35 years old. Call Stages at 818-1111 loc. 225.

Maja Salvador for Sun Cellular

Sun Cellular's latest celebrity endorser is fast rising TV/film star Maja Salvador. She looks how possible' seven to promote endorsement specifically for Sun Cellular's newest product, the F10 Cell and Text Combo, which gives 30 minutes of Sun-to-Sun calls, 40 Sun-to-Sun texts and 30 Sun-to-all texts for the amazingly low rate of only P10.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 1 p.m., "The Fountain of the Day." Tomorrow at 3 p.m., "Music and Lyrics." March 31 at 3 p.m., "Brain Built In." April 1 at 11 p.m., "My Best Friend's Wedding." April 2 at 9 p.m., "Miracle." April 3 at 9 a.m., "Dream of Wisdom." April 4 at 9 a.m., "Standing Tree."

On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Cabin By the Lake." Tomorrow at 9 a.m., "Weekend Pact." March 31 at 1 a.m., "Sabrina." April 2 at 7 a.m., "Dial M for Murder." 3 p.m., "In the Company of Spies." April 3 at 1 p.m., "Chinatown." April 4 at 2 a.m., "Hitchcock."

DLSU Pops Orchestra

The De La Salle University Pops Orchestra invites you to their 24th annual concert, "Six Stage Delight," today at the Yuchengco Auditorium, DLSU Manila campus. The repertoire include songs from original soundtracks of movies, TV, Broadway and game shows. For inquiries, call BJ Hoyja at 0917 301-8125.

Here's to the Easter People in show business

By Nestor U. Torre

DURING THE EASTER SEASON, let's honor and capture our gracious countrymen of the people in entertainment who have done exceptionally good work in a field that is not exactly famous for outstanding achievement.

They are our Easter People, and they should serve as inspiring role models for the industry's young members who are eager to allow media exciting contributions to the field they've just joined.

We cite Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos Recto, for proving that some show biz stars elected to important positions can be of exceptional service, not just to their constituents, but also to the country as a whole.

Marilou Diaz-Abaya, for scoring the bright beam of Filipino movies by putting up her own film institute.

National Artist Eddie Romero, for continuing to add to his film-savvy disciples his recent status, by inducting his second digital feature.

Judine and Tirso Cruz, for using their radio and TV programs to uphold family values and the welfare of children.

Robert Seña and Suzi Abrera, for sharing with millions here what they have learned from performing abroad, and for honoring significant productions to help educate and enlighten the youth.

Mayi Rubel, Elvira Go, and the other prime movers behind the Iloilo TV fund and the Iloilo-cast Iloilo Foundation for Children and Television, for supporting child-friendly programs.

Other advocates for responsible TV, like the Television Advocacy Group, for using the media to inform our TV people how they can improve their work.

The Standard religious organization, for using the media to promote a dynamic musical dimension in human affairs.

Nova Aunor, the country's original "matinidalit" Superstar, for bouncing back after her life and career's many lost blows, and making new contributions to the entertainment field.

Mitch Valdes, for shaking the Filipino of her reputation by way of her entertaining and insightful comedic and musical contributories in her unique club acts.

Eleanor Cutaran, for supporting digital and other innovative productions, and boosting alternative movies such her latest-released *Kasal*.

Pia Hontiveros and Ricky Carandang, for their objective and insightful reportage and commentary on TV.

DIAZ-ARAYA. Was put up to her own film school.

SANTOS-RECTO. Exceptional service to province and nation.

Lauzier Guillen and Bobbie Sun, for consistently and selflessly supporting the efforts of new filmmakers to come into their own by way of the Cinemalaya festival and competition.

Willie Nepomuceno, for raising the level and influence of the craft and art of impersonation.

Susan Aunor-Sim, for being of creative and inspired service to movie workers and their numerous fans by way of Moviefanatic and her late husband Wim's Prime Foundation.

Rosa Rosal, for making the Red Cross her advocacy for many decades, and showing that senior stars can still play an important and inspiring role in our lives.

Noelle Tesoro, for going beyond her performing career and supporting worthy causes and NGO initiatives, thus inspiring other stars to also use their celebrity to boost significant societal endeavors.

And Mel Manuel Quezon III and his "The Explorers" TV show, for providing the unique service of clarifying issues for viewers by revealing their historical underpinnings.

SNEAK PREVIEWS

UK cineplexes boast of diverse cinematic viewing options

By Rito P. Avila

LONDON, ENGLAND—THE BRITISH CAPital isn't just a cultural melting pot and a theater haven, it's also a cinematic mecca that boasts of venues that constantly screen films from all over the world. Here are some of the movies that recently caught our fancy:

Julian Schnabel's acclaimed French feature, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," which won the first Director prizes at Cannes and the Golden Globes and also gave lead actor Mathieu Amalric a Best Actor Oscar recently, is based on the autobiographical book by former life editor in chief, Jean-Dominique Bauby, a woman after he suffered a massive stroke that left his whole body paralyzed—except his left eye!

LUNDEY and Seymour in "The Savages."

Solitary world

To describe his solitary world, he "dictated" his story one letter after another by using eye-pestures that indicate eye-blinking agreement. Fourteen months after the accident—and two days after the publication of his book—he passed away.

PORTMAN and Kava in "The Other Boleyn Girl."

Justin Chadwick's "The Other Boleyn Girl" dramatizes how two sisters, Mary and Anne Boleyn (Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman, respectively, in powerful performances), vie for the amorous affections of Henry VIII (Eric Bana) to raise the family's dwindling coffers.

With a cast that includes Helen Mirren ("The Queen," "The Last King of Scotland"), it demonstrated how the calculating desire conceived the heartless king to eliminate his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, break away from the Catholic Church that excommunicated him, and create the Church of England in the 16th century. Merely 1,000 days after he married Henry and was subsequently proclaimed queen, she was found guilty of adultery, incest and treason—and was beheaded at the Tower of London!

Male heir

The Tudor line's grip of power was threatened by the lack of a male heir. Interestingly, it was Boleyn's daughter with Henry, Elizabeth, who eventually took over the monarchy and ushered in the country's Golden Age. Along with Queen Elizabeth II, she became one of the kingdom's longest reigning monarchs!

In Tamara Jenkins's brilliant but little-seen "The Savages," the Oscar-nominated Laura Linney and the prolific Philip Seymour Hoffman play siblings who are forced to face the realities of familial responsibility when their difficult father is afflicted with vascular dementia. They know something is gravely wrong when they are told that their father is unable to resume writing on the wall of his nursing shelter using his favorite marker!

If you enjoyed Alejandro Amenábar's brilliantly creepy "The Others," you'll no doubt love Juan Antonio Bayona's most accomplished dramatic thriller, "The Orphanage," which follows a mother's (Belen Rueda) search for her missing HIV-positive adopted son (Roger Príncep). The movie will certainly make you cringe with fear, then it'll make you cry.

Doppelganger

Things get even weirder in Harmony Korine's "Mister Lonely," which follows how a Michael Jackson lookalike (Diego Luna)

LUNA and Morton in "Mister Lonely."

meets a Marilyn Monroe doppelganger (Samantha Morton) in Paris, who nurtures him to her place in Scotland—where she lives with Charlie Chaplin and her daughter, Shirley Temple!

Other interesting films here: Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Conformist," Celine Sciamma's "Water Lilies," Phang Boo Wah's "My Blueberry Nights," Mike Newell's "Love in the Time of Cholera," Lasse Hallstrom's "Casanova," Aria Bokhlan's "The Book of Revelation," Roy Andersson's "You, the Living," Hou Hsiao Hsien's "The Flight of the Red Balloon," Parvez Sharma's "A Jihad for Love," Dai Sijie's "The Chinese Botanist's Daughter" and Francois Ozon's "Angel."

Erap's Mowelfund homecoming

By Boots Anson-Roa

JOSEPH EJERCITO "ERAP" ESTRAda, multi-awarded actor, producer, public servant and political leader, is known for his love for the poor and his concern for the fellow movie workers, especially the non-luminaries.

A testament to Erap's concern for the marginalized is the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund), which he founded in 1974 with the unique mandate to provide film workers with health, medical hospitalization, surgical, death and rest, livelihood and housing benefits.

Support

With the support of then First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Secretary Guillermo de Vega and journalist Teodoro Valencia, Fernando Poe Jr., Nanette Inventor and other producers, Mowelfund was officially launched on March 5, 1975.

It was also at then San Juan Mayor Erlinda's mansion, complemented by industry stalwarts like Amy Espantaleon Luis, now National Artist Nikki Romero, Marilou Vera Reyes Marcelo

ESTRADA. Chairman emeritus.

and Stella Whitaker, that the Film Academy of the Philippines, the MTRCB, the Anti-Piracy Film Council and the Manila Film Festival (MMFF) were instituted.

Ballot gala

Looking back, Erap recalls how his parents Mrs. Marina, then Metro Manila Commissioner, all the way to a Colonel Cenon ballot gala to solicit her signature for the MMFF ordinance. Upon seeing the top-ballot star, she surprised Mrs. Marcos quipped: "Joseph, *hindi ko alam, matutuwa ka pala sa ballot!*"

Upon Estrada's representation, the amount was later released from the MMFF because Mowelfund's lifeline is keeping with his dream to professionalize the industry through film welfare, the Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI) was established in 1979, and last since produced so many of top indie and mainstream filmmakers like Ishmael Bernal, Mario O'Hara, Lino Brocka, Celso Ad. Castillo, Eddie Romero, Gil Portes, Peque Gallaga, Lupita Kashiwahara, Laurice Guillen, Joel Lamangan, Jose Javier Reyes, Jeffrey Jeturian, Maryo J. de los Reyes, Chito S. Roño, Joyce Bernal, Carlo J. Caparas, Jose Carreon, Jose Javier Reyes, Jeffrey Jeturian, Maryo J. de los Reyes, Chito S. Roño, Joyce Bernal, Carlo J. Caparas, Jose Carreon, Wilson Tieng, Rolando Tinio, Ishmael Bernal, Mario O'Hara, Lino Brocka, Celso Ad. Castillo, Eddie Romero, Gil Portes, Peque Gallaga, Lupita Kashiwahara, Laurice Guillen, Joel Lamangan

SATURDAY Special

'Horton Hears a Who' is a winsome winner

By Nicolas Torre

WHEN THE TRAILER OF THE animated movie-adaptation of Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who!" first started screening, you could practically hear the cinemas hope blooming in the hearts of the beloved children's author's fans the world over. Here, finally, was a film that looked like it could do justice to Dr. Seuss' exquisite humor and vision. A film, moreover, that might even erase the bad taste left behind by the frankly horrible movie-adaptation of "Dr. Cat in the Hat" and the less awful, but still disappointing "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Guaranteed to those two debacles, the film version of "Horton Hears a Who!" is an outstanding piece of motion picture art. It is neither horrible nor awful, thank goodness, and actually does succeed in conveying to the audience what Dr. Seuss' real name, Theodor Seuss Geisel, wanted to share with his readers in the book.

Promising start

The movie starts promisingly with a very Miazaki-ish sequence involving a drop of water falling off a leaf that sets a chemical rumbling down and down until it hits a daffodil upon which sits a speck. The speck flies through the air and we are treated to a more panoramic view of the bigger world which, to be more specific, is the jungle of Nool, where a dopey but well-meaning elephant called Horton resides.

Tiny person

Those familiar with the book will know what's going to happen next: Horton hears someone coming from the speck, assumes that there must be a tiny person—or even an entire family of tiny persons—living in it, and decides to save them from disaster.

He strokes the speck on the head of a clover flower and discovers, by way of a conversation with the speck's Mayor, that the speck is evidently an entire town called Whoville where the Whos have been living in peace for centuries and where nothing, up to this point, has ever gone wrong.

Horton promises to relocate them to a safer spot, but complications—in the persons of a mean, nattivist-minded kangaroo, a rash of monkeys and a meddling vulture—ensue. Things don't look good for Horton and the citizens of Whoville who, to

MOVIE, G2

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER AT ARANETA CENTER

Whether you want to warm up, cool off, or chill out, we've got lots of ideas for making this your family's most sizzling summer ever!

Join the 100% Summer Promo to win 100 trips for 4! From Feb 18 to April 30, every P500 purchase at any Araneta Center establishment gives you a chance to win 100 vacation packages to some of the most scenic spots in the country: Coron, Boracay, Palawan, Cebu, Bohol, and many more!

Shop and dine at Araneta Center to win tickets to Araneta Coliseum shows! From February 18 to April 3, every P500 purchase at any Araneta Center establishment gives you a chance to win concert tickets to Toni on April 3 and Swing Out Sister on April 7.

For more info, log on to www.aranetacenter.net

Araneta Center Coca-Cola

PRESENT

100% Summer
100 VACATION PACKAGES
FOR 4 AT STAKE!

BUY COKE ZERO

SHOP, DINE
& DRINK COKE ZERO
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN 100 TRIPS FOR 4
EVERY P500 PURCHASE LETS YOU JOIN
FEB 18 - APR 30, 2008

SEE POSTER & FLYER FOR DETAILS

Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza Farmers Market

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 43-0178 Series of 2008

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

ALL MOVIES AND SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 10,000 BC • THE
2 HORTON
3 OVER HER DEAD BODY
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
5 FOOL'S GOLD
6 SOLSTICE
7 STEP UP 2
8 Indieline: ABADERA
9 MEET the SPARTANS
10 MY BIG LOVE

ERMITA

1 OVER HER DEAD BODY
2 FOOL'S GOLD
3 HORTON
4 SOLSTICE
5 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
6 STEP UP 2
7 MEET the SPARTANS
8 Indieline: DAYBREAK
9 10,000 BC

METRO EAST

1 10,000 BC
2 HORTON
3 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
4 OVER HER DEAD BODY
5 STEP UP 2
6 MEET the SPARTANS
7 FOOL'S GOLD
8 SOLSTICE

NOVALICHES

1 MEET the SPARTANS | 10,000 BC
2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
3 FOOL'S GOLD
4 HORTON

PIONEER

1 FOOL'S GOLD
2 HORTON
3 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
4 OVER HER DEAD BODY

STA. ROSA

1 BLONDE AMBITION
2 HORTON | ASSASSINATION JESSE JAMES
3 IN THE NAME of the KING
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

LIPA

1 BLONDE AMBITION
2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
3 THE MIST
4 MY BROTHER'S WIFE

DASMARINAS

1 MY BROTHER'S WIFE
2 FOOL'S GOLD
3 ASSASSINATION of JESSE JAMES
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

IMUS

1 PRIVATE MOMENTS
2 FOOL'S GOLD
3 HORTON/10,000 BC
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

ANGELES

1 BLONDE AMBITION
2 MY BROTHER'S WIFE
3 HORTON
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

TARLAC

1 THE BUCKET LIST
2 10,000 BC
3 PU

STARMILLS

1 HORTON
2 BLONDE AMBITION
3 DAN in REAL LIFE
4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
5 10,000 BC
6 UNTRACEABLE

BACOLOD

1 THE BUCKET LIST
2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
3 UNTRACEABLE
4 10,000 BC
5 HORTON
6 HALF-BLOOD SAMURAI

ILOILO

1 10,000 B.C.
2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
3 PRIVATE MOMENTS
4 HORTON
5 HALF-BLOOD SAMURAI
6 NITE RUNNER

Postscript to a less than consistently lovely beauty pageant

SAN MIGUEL. Standing reaction to her stumbling answer was excellent too.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST MARCH 05 BINIBINING PILIPINAS beauty pageant was a cautionary viewing experience for a number of reasons. It began with a big production number that wasn't very Filipino in design, tempo and effect. It looked more like generic Tropical or Mardi Gras, or an arguably combination of both.

When the leper dancers had finished cavorting all over the stage, the 24 contestants finally have face-to-face to finally flowing (pronounced with a flower motif. That one carried to extremes when last year's critters made their "dramatic" appearance in organic flowers with huge petals framing their false fronts.

—How literal could they get? Thank goodness, the stylists stayed away from the flowery capes and completed their ensembles and walk—or dance—without the messy encumbrances.

Major distraction

The focus on dancing was another major distraction. The 24 contestants were expected to not only look lovely, but to be trendsetters as well. This was unfair to them, because they had to worry about the additional requirement on top of all of their already daunting responsibilities as beauty pageant contestants. They should have been spared this, so they could concentrate on looking their best, which should have been their prime objective.

To make things worse, they were made to "dance sexy," often with pouches, embarrassing and even cha-cha results.

The sexy thrust was further under scored when the contestants were individually introduced in an extended video sequence. They were made to pose and act like sultry teasers trained on by their awesome pecs—pouting, touching their hair and lips, and generally giving the 50s Babes a run for their sex bikinis.

Misplaced

The point is, this was a beauty pageant, not a personal fist-a-rama's image. But the thing is, the show's way of generating more viewership by titillating viewers? If so, it was misplaced, and ultimately a turn-off, because we felt that these lovely women deserved less unpleasant treatment.

Thank goodness, the experienced Bacolodnon was on hand to keep things at a more civilized.

On the debut night, the show felt really overdone, ruining even beauty pageant buffs' endurance. In unprotected Dejavu titles, after only a few minutes, the G or 10 rental fatalism are already chosen, so viewers can concentrate on the talent—who have a ghost of a chance of winning. Here, the winnowing down process took much longer, accounting for the show's inordinate length.

Gaffe

The biggest no-no about the 5th Pilipinas title has been every one of its finalists' big "boobies," which she commissioned while answering a question put to her by a jurist. Many people laughed at the gaffe—but, we didn't join in the ghoulishness.

For one thing, viewers don't really appreciate what a big ordeal it is to be a beauty pageant contestant. You're on your toes for many hours—in high heels, yet.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

STEP UP 2
HORTON HEARS A WHO
FOOL'S GOLD
SUPAH PAPALICIOUS

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

now showing

MOVIEWORLD

ARANETA CINEMAS

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

HORTON HEARS A WHO
FOOL'S GOLD
SOLSTICE
STEP UP 2
10,000 BC

COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS

WATCH IT AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10

BIG SHOWS AT THE BIG DOME

SHOP & DINE
AT ARANETA CENTER
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS
FEB 18 TO APRIL 3

Postscript . . .

from page G1

...marry abroad only in a very bikini you're anxious to...some (most) people just marrying—and, of course, you weren't on top form, of course, you could sound sexily based on make a big mistake. Jo, what a contentious really does zip up, the shouldn't be ridiculed. Instead, we should understand and feel for her.

Granted, Ms Gaddi's reason for herself by choosing to contract the latter's question in English, when Filipino would have sufficed and would have been easier for her to sway, still, the ghoulishly scathing reaction her wedding garnered got rues uncalled for, and reveals how cynically shallow we can sometimes be.

It's a good thing that the lil's issues awarded Justice the Ms. Filipinas Model title, despite her boobies, anyway, when the competent ahead, the one of...turns ask for an interpreter. As for some of us, we can behaved by ask for Justice's pardon for meeting so gleefully to her all-too-understandable mistake.

'Horton Hears . . .

From page G1

prove they exist and to save the day, mind make themselves heard not just to Horton (who has huge ears), but to the rest of the jungle. The moral, stressed up every nearly to Dr. Seuss' own words, is that "A person is a person, no matter how small."

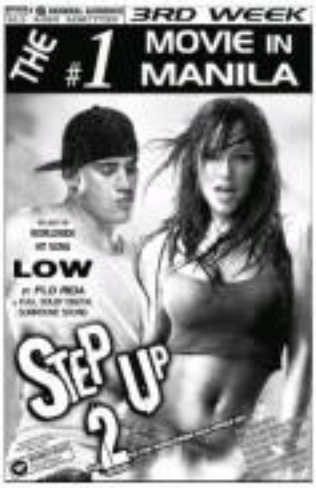
The movie doesn't tamper with the basic plot and inconsequence quite a few of the quirky, charming lines that we could to the lingering appeal of all the works by Dr. Seuss—recon. "Horton," by the way, is the first completely CGI-animated film adaptation of a Dr. Seuss book—and the result is easy on the eye. Impressively detailed and gets the whimsical, droopy look of the original drawings just right.

Though the experience of watching the movie does not, to be perfectly frank, equal the delight of reading the book in all its idiosyncratic and rhythmic glory, the film doesn't do a bad job.

Brevity

The problem, really, is that a big part of the charm of Dr. Seuss' works in general is due to their economy and brevity. The movie adaptation of "Horton" just feels padded-out.

All in all, however, the spirit of the book is still there and it's bound to charm kids and adults alike—it's fun clocking in for more than half a century.



AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 STEP UP 2	2 FOOL'S GOLD	3 HORTON HEARS A WHO!	4 SUPER PARALOCOUS
GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPER PARALOCOUS	2 OVER HER DEAD BODY	3P FOOL'S GOLD	
	4 MEET THE SPARTANS / THE DEWEY COX STORY	5 10,000 B.C.	6 HORTON HEARS A WHO!	7 STEP UP 2
GREENBELT 1	1 FOOL'S GOLD	2 HORTON HEARS A WHO!		
GREENBELT 3	1P FOOL'S GOLD	2P HORTON HEARS A WHO!		
	3 MEET THE SPARTANS	4 WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY	5 OVER HER DEAD BODY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1P HORTON HEARS A WHO!	2 FOOL'S GOLD		
	3 SUPER PARALOCOUS	4 STEP UP 2	5 OVER HER DEAD BODY	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HORTON HEARS A WHO!	2 SUPER PARALOCOUS	3 DAN IN REAL LIFE	4 SUDDEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 SUPER PARALOCOUS	2 OVER HER DEAD BODY		
	3 FOOL'S GOLD	4 10,000 B.C.	5 HORTON HEARS A WHO!	
TRINOMA	1 SUPER PARALOCOUS	2 MEET THE SPARTANS	3 OVER HER DEAD BODY	4 FOOL'S GOLD
	5 10,000 B.C.	6 STEP UP 2	7P HORTON HEARS A WHO!	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — Laguna Town: March 22 - 30, Glorietta Activity Center
- Greenbelt — Bravo Gitano, Wizard Mystik Photo Exhibit: March 28 - April 6, Greenbelt 3
- Alabang Town Center — Summer Swing Mini Golf Play: March 30-April 6, Town Plaza
- Ayala Center Cebu — MS & HERS PROMO: February 19 to March 19
- Market! Market! — PBA Summer Sports Clinic: March 29 & 31, Carnival Plaza
- Christ Is Risen — Repertory Philippines presents ALTAR BOYZ: April 4 to 27, 2008
- Ayala Malls — Registration ongoing for Ayala Museum Summer Art Workshops
- Tri Noma — US GIRLS' 3rd Anniversary: Be part of the grand celebration! March 27, 10 am - 5 pm, Trinoma Activity Center; Grad Jam: A concert treat for our 2008 Graduates, March 29, 6 pm, Trinoma Activity Center

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Trinoma

A leading directory of the country's best establishments

[illegible]

Shangri-la Hotels and Resorts wins Best Mice Sales Team Award

ASIA PACIFIC LEADING LUXURY HOTEL group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, has been voted to having the Best Mice Sales Team in the annual industry survey of ITC Asia media magazine, the tourist-leading magazine focusing on the region's conference, incentive and business travel. In addition, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore is the first ever 5-star Best Mice Hotel in the region.

"This represents a significant endorsement by meeting organizers for Shangri-La's vision and of service excellence and the 'Signature Event' programme – our commitment to meeting expectations to delivering unexpected moments and enhance benefits to them," said Barbara Ong, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts.

Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu has earned a reputation for hosting successful meetings and memorable events building programs. Indoor meeting facilities include the Mactan and Mandaue rooms, seven convertible meeting rooms that are ideal for intimate and conferences, as well as The Marquee, the resort's fully air conditioned indoor tent that spans 1,000 square meters – the biggest of its kind in Cebu.

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, has launched "Signature Events" – a comprehensive set of meetings designed to position Shangri-La Hotels as the foremost in delivering unrivalled meeting and events. Meeting organizers can make advantage of additional services and benefits tailored to their needs from annual inquiries to events 44 hours up. With over 130,000 square meters over 14 million square feet total meeting space in 55 properties, Shangri-La offers more meeting capacity than any other Asia Pacific hotel group, featuring pillarless, high-ceilinged ballrooms up to 2,240 square meters in key locations. For more information, visit www.shangri-la.com.

Fun in the sun at Microtel Boracay!

DISCOVER MICROtel Hotels Suites Boracay – your exclusive escape in the heart of the island. Have a truly relaxing and enjoyable stay at an affordable price. Experience heavenly slumber on the best bed in the island, with the much talked about Microtel sleep system. Splurge in the lush beach.

Stay for 3 days and 2 nights for only P3,950 per person based on quad-sale sharing. This includes accommodations in a Double Bed Room, roundtrip transfers via Caticlan airport, continental dinner, daily breakfast and famous beat rolls.

Families may also avail of the Microtel Family Beach Holiday for only P13,000 to choose of 4 days and 3 nights stay good for 2 adults and 2 children (12 years and below). This includes accommodations in a Double Bed Room, roundtrip transfers via Caticlan airport, welcome drinks, daily breakfast, island hopping, picnic lunches and lessons from rides. These packages are valid until May 31. Rooms are subject to availability and advance booking is required. To reserve, call (02) 997-7171, (032) 249-4211, (032) 888-1888 or e-mail sales@microtelphilippines.com or boracay@microtelphilippines.com.

Microtel Inns & Suites is an international chain of budget service hotels under the Global Hyatt Group with 320+ properties worldwide including 6 in the Philippines. Other Microtels are located in Baguio, Tagaytay, Batangas and Cavite. This year, Microtel will open its exciting locations such as Cebu Business Park, Mimosa Leisure Estate and SM Mall of Asia. All Microtels in the Philippines are managed by Microtel Development Corp, the hospitality arm of the Phinma Group.

InterContinental hails the graduates of '08

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA celebrates the graduates of 2008 with special dining treats at the Prince Albert Restaurant and Café. Inspired Graduates of 2008 dining with 6 or more persons at the Prince Albert Restaurant will be entitled to a complimentary bottle of house wine or one round of non-alcoholic drink for the group. While those avoiding of Café Inspired's lunch or dinner buffet will have the option of choosing between a free bottle of wine for the graduates or a complimentary bottle of house wine for the group. A school diploma must be presented in order to avail of these treats.

Prince Albert Restaurant is open for lunch from Monday to Friday 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from Monday to Saturday 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Café Inspired is open daily for lunch 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For reservations, please call 793-7000.

One hot summer at Cabraya

SAMAHAN ANG IYONG MGA HIYAS AT ALAGANG MAHAL SA BUHAY sa Cabraya Beach Resort Club sa Nasugbu, Batangas. Limang oras lang ang biyahe mula sa Metro Manila. Ang Cabraya ay may 500 metrong pribadong beach at 18 hole golf course na dinisenyo ni Rodolfo Cuenca. Ang mga kuwarto ay may tanawin ng dagat at golf course. Mayroon ding mga function rooms na pwedeng gamitin para sa mga meetings, seminars, kasalan at iba pang okasyon. Para sa mga golfers, may mga golf packages na pwedeng pagpilian. Para sa mga reservations, tumawag sa 723-0888 o 723-0889.

Limitless culinary possibilities at Waterfront Hotels & Casinos

WATERFRONT HOTELS & CASINOS' THE Regent Palms revived and reimagined buffet chain, to provide all-inviting and delectable culinary haven added gustatory elements to its authentic and diverse guest's palate, ranging from Filipino and sumptuous world-cooking creations. Offers 5 sumptuous chefs strategically based in the 5 different corporate hotels in Manila, Cebu and Davao. Leading the team is Swiss-born Michelin three-season winning assistant executive chef Jean-Pierre Lang (Raffles Grand) who flagship property, at Waterfront Insular, Cebu City Hotel & Casino. He established work in the Queen City of the South. Now assisted by Executive Chef Bernadette Yap, Jean-Pierre's culinary expertise in Continental and Mediterranean cuisine at Tre Cino, Italian chef Vito Toto of La Dondola and Indonesian chef Cito enhance each corporate Asian flavors of CMG Inn. Other members of the team are Executive Sous Chef Hoang Alexander of Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino in Manila; Pastry queen, Filipino chef Marcelo Tanalgo of G Hotel, Italian chef Alberto Delicang of Manila Pavilion Hotel and the newest member, all Germans, Malaysian chef Yong Chee Meng of Waterfront Insular Hotel Cebu. Explore the Asian culinary possibilities at Waterfront Hotels and Casinos. For inquiries and reservations, contact (02) 831-0000 or e-mail reservations@waterfronthotels.com.

HEAVENLY TREATS AT COCONAMA AND HEAVEN 'N EGGS

Get free buko with whole wheat grain cakes from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. at Heaven 'n Eggs (Corinthia, Visit Heaven 'N Eggs branches located on: (1) Building on Roxas Blvd. (2) Quezon City (376-2674), Kamuning Road (Quezon), (3) (02) 372-1, Aurora Circle in Diamond City (911-111) and (4) Nueva Hull Road, Quezon City (981-3686), and Corinthia at the 4th floor, The Ledge, Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. It is the grocery visit with a wall and Fabiano Kanda, reserve task. For inquiries, call 910-0481.

Chalkoff presents the Concept Cafe

CHARLES' THE CONCEPT CAFE, BRINGS TO THE DISCERNING CONSUMER AN ENTERTAINING TWIST TO FINE-tube eat cook, the best coffees and teas from around the world. Independently-owned meals straight from the cuisine of the Netherlands and the rest of the world. The modern, international cuisine and fresh selection of The Concept Cafe are a new breed for dining that is different from other coffee outlets, and even some restaurants. Innovative drink recipes combine the best coffees and teas from around the globe, with the best of their beverages to offer customers refreshing and unique blends that definitely satisfy. In addition, coffee lovers will delight in the variety Chalkoff offers freshly affordable meals that go perfectly with one's drink. Chalkoff currently has five locations, namely: SM Mall of Asia, The Block, Robinson's Galleria, Galleria, and Ortigas. As part of the Concept Cafe, five of these: Mall of Asia and Robinson's offer artistic locations more that can be used for meetings, private gatherings, and parties. For more information and reservations, call 859-2501 to 10 or visit www.chalkoff.com.

[illegible]